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Thursday,
14th May, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 14th May, 1953.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SOCIAL GUIDES

*2136. **Shri Radha Raman:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways have started a scheme of Social Guides and it was tried at some places?

(b) If so, what was that scheme and is it still in existence?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, the Indian Railways did experiment with a scheme of Social Guides.

(b) The scheme was for utilisation of social workers as Social Guides generally to assist third class passengers in particular at such important stations where services of Social Guides were most needed. The scheme is still in force although in a somewhat modified form.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know how many Social Guides were recruited under the scheme and in which areas?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Originally 277 Guides were recruited, and they were recruited in almost all the Zones.

Shri Radha Raman: What is their present number?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The present number in service today is 157.

डा० युगल किशोर सिन्हा : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि सोशल गाइड्स को योग्यता क्या रखो गई थी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : उन को खिदम करने की अहलियत ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether there is any test and so on and so forth.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): They are drawn from social service organisations as they are more fitted to do this job.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि सोशल गाइड्स और पैसेन्जर गाइड्स के कार्यों में क्या फ़र्क है और सोशल गाइड्स के ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर विभिन्न जगहों में कहां कहां हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : सोशल गाइड्स और पैसेन्जर गाइड्स के जो फ़रायज हैं वह तक़रीबन एक से हैं । उन की ट्रेनिंग के कोई खास सेन्टर नहीं हैं ।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जब से सोशल गाइड्स मुक़र्रर हुए हैं उस वक्त से अब तक क्या उन के काम की जांच की गई है और क्या यह पता लगाया गया कि उन का काम संतोषजनक है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : यह स्कीम सन् १९४८ में चलाई गई थी । उसके बाद सन् १९५० में इस का रिव्यू किया गया । रिव्यू से यह साबित हुआ कि सोशल गाइड्स का जो तजुर्बा किया गया है वह बहुत कामयाब नहीं हुआ ।

Shri Bansal: Are these Social Guides ladies or men?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are men.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Social Guides have been used to counter the bad effects of anti-social guides operating in and around railway stations?

We know that there are anti-social activities in and around railway stations. May I know whether these Social Guides are being used to counter the effect of their work?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whether they are carrying on any propaganda, political or other?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are not carrying on any political propaganda.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Are there any conditions at the time of recruitment that they should know the regional languages of the passengers who travel?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Naturally, that would be a very preliminary thing to consider.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Considering that ladies also travel, may I know whether Government do not consider it necessary to appoint lady Social Guides also?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The scheme is under consideration.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: A little while ago the Minister said that these Social Guides were all men. Is it not necessary to have women Social Guides so that they may help third class women passengers who need help very badly?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said earlier on in my reply, this experiment has not been a very great success and therefore the idea of recruiting ladies was not considered.

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The experiment has not been a success. Let us proceed to the next question.

बड़े बड़े नगरों के लिये अन्तर्भूमि रेलवे

***२१३८. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** क्या रेल मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस बात की जांच करने के लिये कि बड़े बड़े नगरों में अन्तर्भूमि रेलवे बनाया जाना संभव है या नहीं कोई समिति नियुक्त कर दी गई है या की जाने वाली है; यदि ऐसी समिति बनाई जाने वाली है तो उसके कार्य का क्षेत्र क्या होगा ?

(ख) भारत के किन किन नगरों में जांच किये जाने की सम्भावना है;

(ग) क्या अब तक इस सम्बन्ध में कोई कार्य हुआ है; तथा

(घ) योजना के कब तक पूरे होने की आशा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No such committee has been, or is going to be appointed by the Railway Ministry as far as is known at present.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if it is a fact that a circular railway is being built round about Calcutta and, if it is so, why it is not possible to construct an underground railway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is arguing the matter.

Shri Alagesan: Sir, we do not want to indulge in underground activities just at present.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Is there no scheme with the Government for construction of an underground railway in Calcutta?

Shri Alagesan: Not with the Railway Ministry. The West Bengal Government is having some such proposal.

WAGONS FOR DESPATCH OF JUTE FROM BIHAR

***2139. Shri. L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the jute dealers of Purnea, Saharsa and Darbhanga Districts of Bihar do not get wagons for despatch of jute to Calcutta according to their needs?

(b) Is it a fact that some representations have been made to Government to sanction wagons for jute on a liberal basis to end the present glut?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Consistent with the wagon availability clearances from this area have been much greater than in the preceding year and therefore no special steps have been considered necessary.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know by what time the entire stock is expected to be cleared?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is rather difficult to say when it will be cleared completely, because the difficulty is not one of providing wagons at these stations but of keeping in line with the quota limitations which are imposed from the port at which they are received.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Indusry and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India had approached the Ministry of Railways for allotment of wagons on a liberal basis, on a representation made by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: So far we have not had any difficulty in removing jute from those areas. In fact last year there was an increase of 11;5 per cent. of jute removed from those areas.

Shri L. N. Mishra: As regard the procedure followed in the allotment of wagons to the parties, may I know whether it is a fact that complaints of rampant corruption in the matter of allotment have been made to Government?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is only one normal procedure of allotment of wagons and, as I have stated before, the limitations were the quota limitations imposed from Calcutta.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have represented to the Railway Ministry for help in the matter of introduction of terminal tax on jute?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The information is not available.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIGNITE RESOURCES

*2142. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the development of lignite resources in the South Arcot District in the Madras State?

(b) Are Government contemplating to appoint any Commission or any special body to examine the coal position for forming grade and revision of coal prices?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The development of the lignite deposits is being undertaken by the Madras Government. The Government of India have placed at the disposal of the Madras Government, on a loan basis, certain heavy excavating machinery in connection with the working of the lignite Quarrying Scheme.

(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the recommendation made by the Railway Fuel Enquiry Committee *vide* para 74(i) in Chapter IV of the report. This recommendation has not yet been considered by the Government.

Shri K. P. Sinha: What steps have Government taken in regard to part (a)? May I know if any preliminary work has been done in this connection?

Shri Alagesan: The pilot work is being done under the auspices of the Madras Government and it is going on.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know if any foreign technical advice is sought to expedite matters?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, there is one foreign expert in the committee that has been appointed to look into this.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the matter is in the state of preliminary investigation or whether the project is being worked out.

Shri Alagesan: The project is being worked out.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the project is worked out by the Government through any private agency?

Shri Alagesan: It is directly done by the Madras Government.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know what interest the Railway Ministry is taking in the matter?

Shri Alagesan: As I have said they have loaned to them excavating machinery worth several lakhs of rupees. Just now we are not participating financially.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Apart from placing materials at the disposal of the Madras Government, have they been given any financial assistance?

Shri Alagesan: I have already answered that. Just now we are not participating financially.

Shri V. P. Nayar: If I heard the Deputy Minister correctly, he said certain recommendations are not being considered by the Government. If that is so, may I know when these recommendations were received by Government, on what date?

Shri Alagesan: It was received only recently in the month of March, if I am correct. This part of the report is under consideration of the Production Ministry. They have to take action on this.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know if the Fuel Committee has reported that by regrading and repricing of coal, the Railways would be able to save to the extent of Rs. 1 crore per year?

Shri Alagesan: Yes. There are recommendations but this part of the report, as I said, is looked into by the Production Ministry.

DEVELOPMENT OF MINOR PORTS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

***2143. Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether representations have been made to the Central Government for aid to develop minor ports in Travancore-Cochin?

(b) Has the Central Government enquired into them?

(c) Which are the ports sought to be developed, and in which directions?

(d) Has the Transport Minister visited Aleppey in connection with the development of that port?

(e) If so, what are the steps taken subsequently?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) These proposals along with those of other and (e) Maritime State Governments will shortly be considered by a sub-committee of the National Harbour Board.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 1]

(d) Yes, in December, 1952, the Minister for Transport paid a visit to the Aleppey Port though it was not specifically in connection with any proposals for the development of that Port.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In the statement supplied I find that Rs. 14·9 lakhs are going to be spent on the Aleppey Port, Rs. 19 lakhs on the Trivandrum Port and Rs. 16·5 lakhs on the Quilon Port. May I know whether these amounts are to be spent within a particular period in accordance with any definite plan or will these amounts be spent even now?

Shri Alagesan: This is the programme that has been laid down by the State Government of Travancore-Cochin and they hope to carry out a part of this programme within the plan period, not the full programme.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire to what extent the Central Government will give their aid to these schemes?

Shri Alagesan: There is a proposal to grant loan assistance to the various States for improvement of their minor ports. It has not yet been finalised.

AGE OF RETIREMENT FOR *ex*-COMPANY RAILWAY STAFF

***2144. Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any different age of retirement for *ex*-company Railway staff from that of Government Railway employees; and

(b) if so, why?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The age of retirement of *ex*-Coy. Railway Staff is 55, the same as for Government Railway Staff. Ministerial staff who were in permanent Government service on 31-3-1938 are, however, retained in service upto the age of 60 subject to certain conditions.

(b) The rules under which ministerial staff were recruited in Government service upto 31-3-38 provide for this concession. All staff recruited to Government service after that date and the *ex*-Coy. staff taken over in Government service, have been so taken on the clear understanding that they will have to retire at the age of 55.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is not possible for Government to extend this concession of retirement at 60 to all the workers who used to work in the ministerial establishments before 1938 when the railways were managed by companies?

Shri Alagesan: This was considered and it was decided not to extend this concession to anybody except those who were employed by the Government before 1938.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know why such discrimination is made in the case of subordinates?

Shri Alagesan: There is no question of discrimination. Only those staff recruited under those conditions are given the concessions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether they have made any representations that they may also be treated on the same conditions as the pre-1938 entrants in service?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, we have received representations but this decision was taken.

ACCIDENT IN CHANDAMETA COLLIERIES

***2145. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 14th April, 1953 at Chandameta collieries in Chindwara District of Madhya Pradesh, a portion of coal mine collapsed?

(b) How many persons died?

(c) What steps will be taken as regards their compensation to the families of the deceased?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member has in mind the accident by fall of roof which occurred in the North Chandametta colliery on the 15th April 1953.

(b) Two.

(c) Payment of compensation is governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act, which is administered by the State Government. I may add that there are standing instructions under which the Coalmines Welfare Commission, Dhanbad, is made responsible to pursue every accident case with a view to ensure that compensation payable is paid fully and promptly.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know whether any representation was made by the family of the deceased?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have no information about it.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether this accident was due to the collapse of this portion or due to any other reason?

Shri V. V. Giri: It is due to the collapse of this portion.

DEVELOPMENT OF COCHIN PORT

***2146. Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether there is a proposal under consideration for the further development of Cochin Port?

(b) What is the estimated expenditure?

(c) What amount is proposed to be spent in the year 1953-54 and in which directions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Certain schemes for the improvement of the Port are under consideration as part of the Five Year Plan.

(b) About Rs. 228:5 lakhs *vide* details in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 2.]

(c) About Rs. 4·44 lakhs on the construction of a new warehouse and about Rs. 10·27 lakhs on the provision of oil berth facilities.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know what exactly is the present annual capacity of the Cochin Port to handle cargo?

Shri Alagesan: The tonnage handled by the Cochin Port in 1952-53 is 12,99,668 tons.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In the Five Year Plan I gather that an amount of Rs. 29:26 crores will be spent on all the five ports including Cochin Port. May I enquire whether out of this amount, only Rs. 2,28,00,000 is to be spent on the Cochin Port?

Shri Alagesan: The total amount may not be the amount mentioned by my hon. friend but that is the amount that is intended to be spent on the Cochin Port.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether any amount is being spent for modernisation of the dock system in the Cochin port?

Shri Alagesan: The details are given in the statement. I do not know whether that particular item comes under it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the development work at Cochin Port is being carried on according to the recommendations of the Major Port Development Committee?

Shri Alagesan: All that was taken into consideration when the port authorities were asked to draw up a programme for that port.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Can the hon. Deputy Minister kindly tell me what exactly is the total amount spent so far on the Cochin Port?

Shri Alagesan: I should be able to tell the hon. Member but I do not have this information at present. I should be able to give it.

ERNAKULAM—QUILON RAILWAY LINE

*2147. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what amount has been spent on the Ernakulam—Quilon rail link up to 31st March, 1953?

(b) What work has been done so far?

(c) What are the works which the Administration contemplates to execute in the year 1953-54?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Rs. 7·25 lakhs on Ernakulam-Kottayam Section.

(b) Earthwork has been done for about 18 miles; and some quarters for staff have been commenced.

(c) About 60 per cent. of the earthwork and 60 per cent. of work on minor bridges is proposed to be executed in the financial year 1953-54.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know what exactly is the amount spent on this line? Only mileage has been given.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The amount spent so far is Rs. 7·25 lakhs.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether it is the scheme of the Government to complete a particular distance and make it fit for traffic or whether it is a scheme to complete the entire line and throw it open for traffic.

Shri Alagesan: It is too early to say.

Shri Achuthan: May I know the number of labourers daily employed in that work?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I require notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the land acquisition works in connection with this line have been completed?

Shri Alagesan: It is rather slow, Sir. It is due to this that the work is delayed.

F.A.O. EXPERTS

*2148. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of three F.A.O. experts will be available to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in the near future;

(b) where these experts will be posted;

(c) what kind of advice they will give;

(d) whether advice on machinery used in food industries and on the manufacture of new types of cheap and efficient containers suited to Indian conditions, will also be given; and

(e) what expenditure Government will bear for these F.A.O. experts?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The experts are expected to arrive in India early next year.

(b) At the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

(c) and (d). One expert in the manufacture of cereal foods, especially biscuits and break-fast foods, will advise on the setting up of pilot plants for the manufacture of such products and to assist in organising a Bakery Development Laboratory at the Institute. Another expert in the manufacture of malted milk powder, infants' foods, will advise on the manufacture of such products and on the selection and erection of pilot plants therefor. The third expert, on packaging materials and containers for foods, will advise the Institute on the setting up of a Laboratory for packaging, testing and development and on the organisation of research on packages and containers for foods.

(e) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research will bear the 'local costs' of the experts *viz.* installation expenses of Rs. 1,650/- for the first month, free lodging after the first month, actual transportation charges and free board and lodging plus Rs. 10/- per day while on official tour payment of income tax and provision of medical care.

सरदार एस० एल० सहगल : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि एफ़० ए० ओ० एक्सपर्ट्स जो यहां पर आवेंगे, यदि यह ऐक्सपैरीमेंट आप का सक्सैसफुल हुआ तो क्या उसको सारे भारत में आप प्रोत्साहन देने की कोशिश करेंगे ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : जी हां, उसी ख्याल से तो इन को लाया जा रहा है ।

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: How many years are the experts going to remain in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Usually the term varies between 6 months and 2 to 3 years.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the breakfast foods on which the experts will advise us on will be in conformity with our Indian ways of having breakfast or will they be quite different from that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no doubt whatsoever although it is a fact that many of us are accustomed to European food also.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether the Government have ascertained whether these experts are real experts for the purpose for which they have been brought here or they were holding only administrative posts in the FAO?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As far as is humanly possible, we select persons who are real experts and not pseudo experts.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: It is not selection by the Government: they are sent by the FAO.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is an argument.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The FAO also knows.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know what the value of these powders which these gentlemen are going to manufacture will be in the overall food economy of this country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is nothing to suggest that they will manufacture only powders. There are a variety of things. Laboratories will be set up. It will be Indians who will work them. They will make only such products as will be worth consuming.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: On whose advice were these experts got?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is by negotiation between this Government and the FAO.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: I want to know on whose advice they were appointed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Some questions are put; I do not know how they can be allowed. It is the Government that has to decide, whichever Government, this side or that side or the extreme corner Government. They have to take the responsibility of fixing which experts will come to this country,—real good experts. Can we go on criticising on the floor of the House whether the experts are real experts or not, and we are the real experts? I only appeal to hon. Members to exercise a kind of moderation in the questions in particular details. We may stop at a particular stage.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what are the important items of breakfast about which we seek advice and may I also know whether, as the hon. Minister said, these experts will come here and advise on food which is now taken by persons using English food, as he said?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are various things. At least, my hon. friend, I think, knows what we make out of maize, wheat and rice. We are now preparing corn flakes and other things. There are many things which are similar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Will they advise on *dosas* and *idlis* also?

FOREST DEVELOPMENT PLANS

*2149. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to implement the Forest Development Plans adumbrated in the Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken towards the co-ordination of forest policy?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The bulk of the recommendations in the Plan are for action by the States and the

State Government have been requested to implement them. Such of the recommendations as concerns the Central Ministeries and Departments have been taken up with them.

(b) Yes; co-ordination is achieved through the Central Board of Forestry and the matter will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Board in June.

Shri Madiah Gowda: May I know whether the State Governments have executed and followed the various policies laid down by the Central Government and whether the Central Government have got any agency to scrutinise the development work that is done by the various States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have no big agency to scrutinise. But, we are sure that the State Governments are interested in all these recommendations and I am sure they will also be anxious to implement them as far as possible. I cannot say about the stage of implementation; but I have no doubt that the policy and recommendations are such that they are in the national interests as well as in the States' interests.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether the Central Board of Forestry has considered any scheme to nationalise private forests?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. It will be the State Governments who will in the first instance do it. Then, according to the recommendations and policy, which has been laid down, we will try to coordinate our activities so far as national forests are concerned.

Shri Madiah Gowda: May I know whether any grant is given to the State Governments for their research and development work by the Central Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are I believe certain schemes of research which are subsidised by the Government. I could not give a very detailed answer.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभापति महोदय, हर एक देश का जलवायु भिन्न भिन्न होता है । इस देश में भी बहुत तरह का जलवायु है, बहुत तरह की परिस्थितियां हैं । तो यहां के वायु मंडल का ज्ञान हुये बिना यह विशेषज्ञ लोग कैसे काम कर सकेंगे यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : वायुमंडल कैसे ? आनरेबिल मेम्बर को व्याख्यान नहीं देना चाहिये ।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : इन विशेषज्ञों को भारत वर्ष के वायुमंडल तथा परिस्थिति का ज्ञान है या नहीं और अगर नहीं है तो ये कैसे काम कर सकेंगे ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of this question relating to forests?

Shri Kelappan: According to the Five-year Plan, Government want to maintain 33 per cent. of the land area as forests and the present area is only 18 per cent. How do the Government propose to narrow this wide gap?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is one of the principal recommendations made to the States as well as pursued by the Central Government. As hon. Members may know, there is a provision of Rs. 9,95,00,000 for all these purposes a part which is intended to bridge the gap between the existing forests and forests that we should have.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Are Government aware of the fact that many of the forests belonging to zamindars, in anticipation of the abolition of zamindaris, are being denuded every day?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That may be a fact.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: What steps are the Government taking to prevent that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Whatever has been cut, cannot be restored. We are trying to encourage new forest development.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What steps are taken to avoid a future recurrence of that? That is what the hon. Member wants to know.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is a matter resting with the State Governments. They are aware of the problem.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: The hon. Minister just now said that the Central Government is giving grants and loans to the State Governments for the development of forest work.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I did not say that. I merely mentioned the expenditure that the Central Government is likely to incur on the development of forests.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: I am sorry.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Is the Government giving any advice to the State Government of Madras to stop indiscriminate cutting of forests? Have they complied with it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think a Government like that of Madras needs any advice from the Centre on an obvious matter like this.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are there any definite schemes of afforestation and may I know the proportion which they bear to the destruction of forests?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not without notice reply to that question.

Shri Kelappan: Have Government any idea of the area of private-owned forests?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figure.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what instructions have been given to the States which are recklessly violating the forest laws?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not cast aspersions on States. States are not responsible for recklessly felling forests.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know, Sir, how many acres of land were afforested so far to check soil erosion and increasing area of deserts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.

OVER-BRIDGE AT JULLUNDUR

*2151. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the residents, traders and business community of Jullundur, urging the requirement of an over-bridge capable of bearing the weight of heavy transport;

(b) whether Government are aware that in view of the newly-opened direct road route connecting Jullundur and Pathankot, a considerable military traffic too is likely to be diverted to this route; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No complaint of the inadequacy of the present level crossings to deal with the road traffic of the newly opened direct road route connecting Jullundur and Pathankot have so far been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that except for two level crossings, there is no other crossing from one side of this most heavily populated city to the other?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I cannot go into details, but I am prepared to get the matter examined again, provided the Municipality or the State Government is willing to offer its contribution towards the completion of that over-bridge.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister himself has examined the site and he himself felt the need for a crossing there?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is correct, but I said in the construction of that over-bridge the State Government has also to give their own contribution. Then only can the Railway Board take up the work.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Has there been any correspondence between the Central Government and the State Government in this matter.

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is for the State Government to write to us.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Is it a fact that the State Government has already drawn the attention of the Central Government to this matter?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have not received any communication.

RAILWAY LINES IN ETAH DISTRICT

*2152. **Shri Badshah Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the results of his recent visit to Etah District in connection with interlinking of the District and Tehsil Headquarters by railway lines with a neighbouring Railway junction?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): It is proposed to examine the following alternative routes in this connection:—

(i) Metre Gauge connection from Kasganj to Etah.

(ii) Metre Gauge connection from Etah to Hathras Road *via* Jalesar, and

(iii) Broad Gauge connection from Etah to Jalesar Road *via* Jalesar.

Further progress will depend on the result of the investigations.

Shri Badshah Gupta: May I know, Sir, how long will this investigation take to come to a final decision?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is difficult to give any specific date, Sir. We are doing our best.

Shri Badshah Gupta: Which of the tehsil headquarters of Etah district are likely to be benefited by this new connection?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, the idea is to connect the district headquarters of Etah with the main railway line.

Shri Badshah Gupta: May I know, Sir, if it has been finally decided that Etah will be connected by a metre gauge and not by a broad gauge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We have to await the result of the investigation.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if it is now the policy of the Government to connect tehsil and district headquarters with important railway junctions all over India?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. No such policy.

MECHANISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES

*2153. **Shri S. C. Samanta**: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drafted any Scheme for the mechanisation of postal services in India;

(b) whether any foreign experts have come to advise in the matter; and

(c) if so, how long they will be in India and which places they are expected to visit?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Yes. Two British experts have come to India under the Technical Assistance Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

(c) Nine months at present. It is proposed that they visit Lucknow, Kanpur, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Ahmedabad and such other stations as may be considered necessary.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any sum has been set apart according to the Five Year Plan for this purpose?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. It is proposed that 30 lakhs will be spent on mechanisation.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know, Sir, whether these experts have submitted any definite proposals with regard to this?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They came here as late as March 20, 1953. They will take time to study and examine and will then make recommendations.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know, Sir, the specific purpose or object for which they have come here to study and report?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, Sir, to introduce the mechanised system in the postal and telegraph departments so that we may achieve efficiency along with speed.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What are the countries they have come from?

Shri Raj Bahadur: United Kingdom.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I have a little elucidation? May I know, Sir, what is exactly meant by mechanisation of postal services?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For example, conveying of mail bags for despatch to sorting offices and from sorting offices to mail vans and so on and so forth by mechanical devices.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Is there any proposal to start a 'tube' system for despatching letters in big cities of India as it exists in other countries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That will depend on the recommendations that these experts make.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What is the amount of remuneration that is paid to these experts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have not to pay any amount of remuneration as such. But they shall be entitled to draw certain allowances, lodging expenses etc. according to the terms.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What are the terms, Sir?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Their salary etc. and passage will be paid for by the U.K. Government and we shall have to pay for their lodging and allowances according to the rates allowed to first-class officers.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the mechanisation of these services will bring about any unemployment, and if so, to what extent?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, it is too early to predict that.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir whether this mechanisation will cause any unemployment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same question was put.

JUTE CULTIVATION IN ANDHRA

*2156. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that instructions were given by the Central Government to the cultivators in the proposed Andhra State to convert their groundnut farms into jute farms?

(b) Was a memorandum submitted by the Andhra State Jute Traders' Committee to the Central Government?

(c) What action was taken on that memorandum?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM P. & T. EMPLOYEES

*2157. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether Government propose to grant educational concessions to the children of Posts and Telegraphs staff on the lines granted by the Madras Government for their employees?

(b) Is it the intention of the Government to classify Mathurai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore as 'B' grade cities in view of their industrial importance and high cost of living?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) No.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY STAFF

*2158. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the policy of Government is to grant house rent allowance to Railway staff living contiguous to municipalities?

(b) Is the policy followed in the case of railway staff living near all municipalities or is it based on the size of population of each municipality or on any other consideration?

(c) Has the Railway staff at Salem junction been granted house rent allowance accordingly?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The policy of Government is to grant house rent allowance to staff whose place of work is located in Municipalities, Notified Areas and Cantonments having a population of substantially more than one lakh and in Municipalities, Notified Areas or Cantonments contiguous to these irrespective of the size of the population in the latter.

(c) Yes; as a special case from 1-10-1952.

NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMME

*2160. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Norwegian Financial Aid Programme has commenced in Travancore-Cochin?

(b) What is the estimate of the expenses of the Programme?

(c) How much financial aid is expected from Norway?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 37·6 lakhs for the year 1953-54.

(c) A sum of Rs. 27 lakhs has been allocated by the Norwegian Government for the community project for fishery development in Travancore-Cochin State during the year 1953-54.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: What are the items of the programme, and how long will it take to complete?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The first step to be taken so far as the implementation of the project will be to provide as many motors as possible for

installation in the local fishing boats which number about 400. Then the repair facilities will be made available. Then new types of nets will be provided, and fishing crafts and shore installations for managing the fishing operations will be set up. Efforts will also be made to provide supplementary employment to fishermen. Other steps include the setting up of ice-producing plant and insulated sheds for short-term storage of ice, provision of insulated vans and motor crafts for transporting fresh fish and machinery for the extraction of fish oil. Steps will also be taken for improvement of health and sanitary conditions of the fishermen in the project area.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know whether Government is going to supplement this aid by financial help, and if so, how much?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Government of India's share in this whole project is Rs. 10.6 lakhs.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, the total amount of aid that has been sanctioned by the Norwegian Parliament for giving aid to India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In the original agreement it was 10 million Kroners which amounts to Rs. 67 lakhs.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Is the aid received in cash or in kind by way of motors, nets and other things.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In most cases, it is the equipment that we get. It is in the shape of material.

Shri Dabhi: Will this aid be in the form of gift or loan?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are all gifts.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the programme includes any work for the exploitation of the "Wadge-Bank" off the coast of Travancore-Cochin?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know what the hon. Member means.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the hon. Minister knows that the "Wadge-Bank" is one of the richest fishing grounds?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would request him to find out from the Agreement, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether this aid programme is to be extended to any other place in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For the present it is confined to Travancore-Cochin.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know whether this aid was asked for by us or has it come from Norway of its own volition?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Most of these aids are coming of their own volition. We have not asked for them.

MATCH-WOOD PLANTATIONS SCHEMES

***2161. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the present position of the match-wood plantations scheme?

(b) Since how long is this scheme being worked out?

(c) What has been the total expenditure on the scheme since its inception?

(d) What measure of success has been achieved?

(e) How long will the scheme continue?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (e). A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 3]

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What was the acreage under plantation last year, and what is it going to be this year?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are certain details given in the statement. I have no information beyond what is stated there.

Shri Dabhi: May I know where these plantations are situate?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say, Sir.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: In what part of India is this matchwood plantation going on?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same thing was asked by the other hon. Member.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is going on in U.P., Assam, Travancore-Cochin and Madras.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How much of this wood has to be imported? Do we import anything?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That would be for the Commerce Minister to say.

PARLAKIMEDI LIGHT RAILWAY

*2162. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at the time of laying new rails on the Parlakimedi Light Railway line recently, many old level-crossings have been removed which is causing difficulties to the public; and

(b) if so, will Government suitably locate them so as to remove the inconvenience caused to the public?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No level crossings have been removed recently.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the factors that are taken into consideration for constructing level-crossings?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): This is an old line that is being restored. All the old level-crossings are being retained.

WARE-HOUSES FOR TOBACCO IN ORISSA

*2164. **Shri Sanganna:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the number of Government ware-houses and the number of private ware-houses opened for the storage of tobacco in each district of Orissa State?

(b) What alternative arrangements have been made by Government in the areas where there are neither Government nor private ware-houses?

(c) Are Government aware that tobacco growers have been unnecessarily taxed where there are no ware-houses?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Storage of cured tobacco in bonded store-rooms on the premises of the curers is permitted under the Central Excise Rules.

(c) No.

STATEMENT

The number of Tobacco Warehouses in Orissa.

(i) Government Warehouses in Orissa................................Nil.

(ii) Private Bonded Warehouses. Cuttack Circle (comprising Districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj. ... ... 31.

Jeypore Circle (comprising Distts. of Koraput and Kalahandi. ... ... 91.

Berhampore Circle (comprising Distts. of Ganjam, Puri and Phulbani). ... ... 41.

Sambalpur Circle (comprising Distts. of Sambalpur, Bo'angir, Patna and Sundar-Garh). ... 69.

Districts-wise figures are not readily available.

Shri Sanganna: May I know, Sir, the conditions to be fulfilled for opening of ware-houses?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice of that Question.

मलेरिया निरोधक योजना

*२१६५. श्री विभूति मिश्र : स्वास्थ्य मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि बिहार सरकार ने अपनी पंच वर्षीय योजना में मलेरिया को हटाने के लिये कोई व्यवस्था की है ; तथा

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके लिये योजना में कौन कौन से स्थानों को शामिल किया गया है ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). The information has been called for from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that a similar answer was given to my question on this subject............

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When?

Shri S. N. Das: Some 10 or 15 days back, a similar answer was given that information is being collected on this point. I would like to know how long Government would take to collect this information.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We have been sending reminders. Even when this question was received, we have sent a reminder, but we have not received the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Therefore, hon. Members must ask their counterparts in Bihar Assembly.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that the Central Government is going to contribute a huge amount, it is necessary for us to know the information.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I can give the informal figures that we have collected from the Planning Commission. There is an amount of Rs. 6.3 lakhs including Rs. 1:25 lakhs for 1951-52, and Rs. 1:63 lakhs for 1952-53 that has been set apart under the Five Year Plan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should this question be asked? I do not know how it crept in. Hon. Members will kindly see from the Bihar reports.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बिहार में मलेरिया से कितने आदमी मरते हैं ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Information is being gathered from the Bihar Government. That is what was said.

DISTRESS IN TEHRI-GARHWAL

***2166. Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of the complete failure of crops due to failure of rain there is distress among the inhabitants of Tehri-Garhwal;

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have asked the Government of India for aid in the matter; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Some press reports about the scarcity conditions prevailing in Tehri-Garhwal, have come to the notice of the Government. The State Government are making enquiries.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah: Is it possible that the grain can be distributed free or on loan there as the people there have no purchasing power?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That may be so, but we have not received any reports.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND AURANGABAD

***2167. Shri H. G. Vaishnav:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the reasons for discontinuing the Air service between Bombay and Aurangabad from 1st April, 1953?

(b) Are there any prospects of re-introducing the same in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The traffic over this route is mainly tourist and seasonal, lasting only for about six months of the year. The service was discontinued, when there was a fall in traffic.

(b) The nationalised corporation will consider the possibility of resuming the service if there is an adequate demand for it.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav: Was it profitable as long as it was running?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We were getting on an average an utilization of 27 per cent. of the capacity only. Therefore, we cannot say it was satisfactory from the economic point of view.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav: Is there any proposal to have air services between Bombay and Hyderabad which may halt at Aurangabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This will be considered by the nationalised corporation.

Shri Heda: What was the average number of passengers between Bombay and Aurangabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am sorry I will not be able to give that. I can give the percentage of the traffic.

ACCIDENT IN LAXMI PRASAD MICA MINES

***2170. Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was an accident in Laxmi Prasad Mica Mines near Gudur on the 23rd April, 1953 resulting in injuries to three workers?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the accident?

(c) What steps are being taken for the payment of compensation to the injured workers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes; four workers were injured in the accident.

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) Payment of compensation is governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which is administered by the State Government. However, Inspectors of Mines use their influence and advice to ensure prompt payment.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the nature of the injuries and the treatment given?

Shri V. V. Giri: We are expecting a report, and the report will be placed on the Table.

Shri Nanadas: Is it a fact that the Manager of the Mines is not a qualified man in mining operations?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have no information, but I take it from the hon. Member.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, how many shots can be fired at a time in a mine?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am not in a position to state it.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May we have the assurance that after the report is received and the cause for the accident is ascertained, every precaution will be taken by the Government to see that such incidents do not recur in the future?

Shri V. V. Giri: I assure the hon. Member that every precaution is, will be and always has been taken.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether at the time of these incidents more than the prescribed number of shots were fired from the mine?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have no idea because I am expecting a report and the report will be placed on the Table of the House and questions may be put later on, if required.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, in reply to a previous question the hon. Minister said that he was glad to take the information from the hon. Member. May I know what the hon. Minister proposes to do on that information?

Shri V. V. Giri: After I get the information I will take steps.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Then what does he mean by saying that he will take that information from the hon. Member?

Shri V. V. Giri: I said that I will have the information of the hon. Member. If I find that that information is correct, I will take necessary action.

ACCIDENT IN NANDIDROOG MINES

***2171. Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether there occurred any accident in Nandidroog Mines, Kolar Gold Fields, on the 27th April, 1953?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the accident?

(c) How many workers were injured and what is the nature of the injuries?

(d) What steps have been taken for the treatment and payment of compensation to the injured workers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course. The information available shows that one worker was killed and certain others injured.

(d) Payment of compensation is governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which is administered by the State Government. Information regarding the arrangements for the treatment of the injured is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether the accidents are on the decline or are they increasing?

Shri V. V. Giri: They are not increasing but are on the decline.

विश्व वन सम्मेलन

***२१७२. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह:** (क) खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार ने विश्व वन सम्मेलन को भारत में अपने अधिवेशन का आयोजन करने के लिये आमन्त्रित किया है?

(ख) यदि हां तो यह सम्मेलन कब और कहां होगा?

(ग) इसमें कौन कौन से देश भाग लेंगे?

(घ) उस पर कितना व्यय करने का निश्चय किया गया है ?

(ङ) उसमें किन किन विषयों पर विचार किया जायेगा ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) It is proposed to be held at Dehra Dun either late in 1954 or early in 1955.

(c) The Food and Agriculture Organization will invite all the member countries to participate in the Congress.

(d) The budget for the Conference is under consideration.

(e) A statement showing subjects proposed to be discussed is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 4.]

An officer of the Food and Agriculture Organisation is coming in the first week of June to discuss details.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: इस कांग्रेस का वर्ल्ड में सेंटर कहां है ।

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख: ऐफ० ए० ओ० के सेंटर के साथ रोम में है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: क्या हम जान सकते हैं कि जो कांग्रेस होने वाली है उस में हिन्दुस्तान के वनों की रक्षा के निमित्त भी कोई योजना पेश की जायगी ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख: अवश्य । जब तक जगत में भारत शुमार किया जाता है उस वक्त तक उस में भारत के ऊपर भी विचार किया जायगा ।

GLIDERS

***2173. Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether any Indian materials have been discovered to construct Gliders in India?

(b) Has the utility of the bamboo from the forests of North Kanara District been tested in the construction of Gliders in India ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri Joachim Alva: Has Government received any proposals from any Indian businessman in the matter of the construction of gliders in India?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Apart from these proposals, we are already ourselves investigating the possibilities of utilising Indian bamboo for the purpose.

Shri Joachim Alva: Did the Flying Club, Poona, report to the Government that bamboos from North Kanara district are suitable for the construction of gliders?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Poona Club also works in close co-operation and collaboration with the Technical centre at Delhi and they are always exchanging notes.

RAILWAY LINK IN NORTH KANARA

***2174. Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether Government have undertaken any survey of the North Kanara Districts so that it could be connected by Railway from Hubli end or by the nearest Railway link from Mysore?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to establish such a link ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Surveys were carried out for railway lines from Hubli to Sirsi and Ta'aguppa to Bhatkal during the years 1915-21.

(b) The projects were dropped as these were considered to be unremunerative.

Shri Joachim Alva: Has any project been considered by Government thereafter?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As part of the reconstruction work after the war, a line from Alnaver to Karwar was considered.

Shri Joachim Alva: When do Government propose to initiate the line from Alnaver to Karwar?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: After due consideration, the proposal has been dropped.

INDIAN LANGUAGES TELEGRAPH SERVICE

*2175. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Languages Telegraph Service is being popularised; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend this service by allowing to use of other Indian languages for the purpose of Telegraphs?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) At all Telegraph Offices where Hindi Telegraph service obtains, messages in any language can be booked. The only condition is that they are written in Devanagari script.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether telegraphic money orders are received in the Hindi language?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes; they are received in U.P. and Bihar.

Shri T. A. S. Chettiar: May I know whether there is any attempt to extend it to other Indian languages?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already said that the only condition is that the messages should be written in the Devanagari script.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: The difficulty will be that many people do not know the Devanagari script and therefore this concession given under those conditions will not be very useful.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a question of argument.

CALCUTTA PORT COMMISSION

*2179. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the considerations that weigh with Government in deciding upon the representation of Traders' Associations on the Calcutta Port Commission;

(b) whether the Government of India received a representation from the Bengal Sugar Merchants' Association Calcutta, pleading for their being appointed on the Port Commission; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken on this request?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The main consideration governing the selection of commercial bodies for representation on the Calcutta Port Commission is that such bodies should, as far as possible, represent the principal users of the port facilities.

(b) Yes.

(c) The request was not accepted as the volume of sugar trade passing through the Port is insignificant.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know how many Traders Associations are represented in the Commission?

Shri Alagesan: The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Chambers of Commerce and the Indian National Steamship Company. Only Chambers of Commerce are given representation and not individual trade associations.

RAILWAY QUARRY AT DHAULA KUAN

*2183. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway have a railway quarry at Dhaula Kuan;

(b) whether the Northern Railway have permitted their ballast contractor to quarry out stones from this quarry;

(c) whether it is a fact that over 400 workers are employed in this work every day;

(d) whether Government are aware that no drinking water facilities are available for these workers near the quarry; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to provide drinking water facilities there?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. There are about 300 contractor's labourers working in the quarry.

(d) In accordance with the conditions of contract, requiring the contractor to arrange for the supply of drinking water, the contractor has a Piao for the workers. Water is also taken to various points by buckets and distributed among the labourers.

(e) In view of the above, this does not arise.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the contractors

have failed in their duty to supply water, and what action Government has taken in regard to this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I think the contractor has supplied water even by carrying the water in buckets to the workers at the work-spot.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that the water scarcity is so acute that the labourers are not getting adequate water and there are lots of complaints?

Shri Alagesan: That is why water is being supplied on the work spot. At small distances there are taps in various places. In three places there are taps.

MEMORANDUM FROM PRAJA SOCIALIST PARTY, TIRUCHENGODE

*2184. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy**: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by the Government of India from the Praja Socialist Party, Tiruchengode complaining of the inadequacy of drinking water supply in the Tiruchengode area (Madras State) and requesting the Central Government to arrange for Power Boring (Drilling) Machines so that the wells can be deepened by 100 to 150 ft.?

(b) Are Government aware that ordinary ways of deepening will not yield results in this area as the water level has receded very much?

(c) What action do Government propose to take on this memorandum?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what reply has been given to the representation submitted to the Government by the Praja-Socialist and what action the Government has taken to deepen the wells in this area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, enquiries are being made from the State Government, so far as the whole matter is concerned, and the information is being collected.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: In view of the acute shortage of water, are Government considering the suitability of deepening wells?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is primarily for the State Government to take action, Sir. There is water scarcity unfortunately all over India.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether there is any provision in the budget of the Government of India for undertaking such works when representations are received?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These will have to be referred to the State Governments. I do not think the responsibility rests with the Central Government.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Central Government rushed help to Rayalaseema and the wells were deepened there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In some cases it is possible; but it is not possible in all cases.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know the reason for this?

WATER SCARCITY BETWEEN CHAPRA AND SONEPUR RAILWAY STATIONS

*2186. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of scarcity of drinking water between Chapra and Sonepur Stations on the N. E. Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware of several cases of faintings amongst the passengers for want of drinking water at Dighwara and Sitalpur Railway Stations; and

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the issue of 'Indian Nation' Patna, dated the 24th April 1953, regarding the non-availability of drinking water between Chapra and Sonepur Stations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Government are not aware of any scarcity of drinking water for passengers at stations between Chapra and Sonepur on the North Eastern Railway.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, but the allegations made in the news item have not been found to be correct on enquiry by the North Eastern Railway.

RISE IN PRICE OF SUG

*2187. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the slowly and steadily rising price of sugar supplied to the consumers by the retail dealers on the ground that the wholesale price has been enhanced by the manufacturers;

(b) whether Government have been keeping in touch with this aspect of the sugar market specially in view of Government's announcement leaving the price of sugar to be fixed by the manufacturers; and

(c) what action has so far been taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Yes

(c) The Government have released two and half lakh tons sugar for free sale as against the normal quantity of 1 lakh tons per month. Movement of sugar from factories has been further stepped up. Government is keeping a close watch over the position. The Indian Sugar Mills Association has also been asked to take suitable steps to bring down sugar prices to a reasonable level.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, if in view of the releases of the additional sugar, the price of sugar has gone down?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I believe they have come down.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if the Government is aware that they are still keeping up the same level of prices in the market?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as my information goes, as soon as we warned the Trade Associations, there was a drop of 8 annas and we believe that with further releases, the prices will come down still further.

Short Notice Questions and Answers

PROJECTS UNDER FIVE YEAR PLAN IN MADRAS STATE.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to State (a) Whether expenditure on irrigation and power projects under the Five Year Plan has been slowed down in the Madras State on account of the strain imposed upon its finances by scarcity conditions in the State;

(b) Whether the financial crisis in the State has forced the Madras Government to effect economies in all departments of Government including a 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of their officers;

(c) Whether the Government of India are sending the Minister for Commerce and Industry to make as on the spot enquiry regarding conditions in the State; and

(d) Whether the Government of India have indicated to the State Government the amount of aid that they could expect from the Centre?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have no precise information on this except in regard to the imposition of 10 per cent. cut of the salaries of the officers of the Madras State. The savings by this cut are not expected to be very appreciable.

(c) No, Sir. The Commerce Minister's visit is on his own initiative.

(d) The Central Government have indicated to the Madras Government as to other State Governments, the amount of loan assistance which they could expect in the course of the current year for the development schemes.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement of the Chief Minister of Madras at a recent press conference that if the Centre did not go to the aid of the State, the execution of the Five Year Plan in that State will have a complete break-down?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Sir, the Madras Chief Minister makes statements on numerous occasions. I do not really know to which particular statement the hon. member is referring.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Has the Government any definite idea of the extent of privation suffered by Madras in terms of the number of people and the area affected as a result of the failure of the monsoon successively for the last six years?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise? This question relates to projects under the Five Year Plan. We are now going into famine conditions.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know, Sir, what aid Government propose to give to Madras Government in view of these circumstances?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have already answered, Sir, that so far as development expenditure is concerned, as to other States, the amount has been indicated. We have also extended to them considerable ways and means assistance.

As regards any other form of assistance, as for instance, continuing works which were started, although they were not in the Plan, the matter is under consideration. The question has become complicated now on account of the prospective partition of the State into two separate States.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the finances of the Madras State have been jeopardised by reason of the fact that the Centre promised aid to meet the famine conditions and on that basis the Madras State has spent Rs. ten crores?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There is no truth whatsoever in this assertion. The Central Government never promised any assistance to the Madras State, of any extraordinary nature. The usual assistance which is extended to States is sharing half the cost of expenditure on gratuitous relief and advancing half the sum required for test relief works.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it not a fact that, as a matter of fact, they have spent Rs. ten crores and the Madras Government offered to place their accounts at the disposal of the Auditor-General so that the accounts may be verified and found whether they had not actually spent Rs. ten crores on famine relief?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is not the concern of ours to dispute how much the Madras Government spent on famine relief. We are concerned only with the Central directive. The Centre is concerned only with certain portions of famine relief expenditure. It is also not correct to concentrate attention only on expenditure on famine relief. The Madras Government have spent a great deal of money on increased administrative expenditure and on schemes which were not in the Plan.

Shri Thanu Pillai: The hon. Minister observed that half grant and half loan will be given for famine relief. The Madras Government has spent Rs. ten crores on Rayalaseema famine. Has Government given Rs. five crores relief and Rs. five crores as loan?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The cost of Rs. ten crores does not represent the admissible expenditure.

Shri N. M. Lingam: In view of the fact that the reserves of the Madras Government have been completely wiped out, will Government consider the desirability of sanctioning an immediate grant, so that the Madras State might go ahead with its works and also the State Government may increase the tempo of expenditure on irrigation and power projects with a view to providing employment and relieve scarcity conditions?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: All these duties do not devolve on the Centre. As I said, the Centre is concerned with either sharing of the cost of gratuitous relief or advancing half the amount required for essential test works. As regards the other items, that is to say finding work for meeting unemployment generally, or making a grant to any State, these duties do not devolve on the Centre.

ACCIDENT TO AIR INDIA DAKOTA AT NEW DELHI

Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air India Dakota bound for Bombay crashed near Delhi on early Saturday morning, the 9th May, 1953;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the plane was not tested before it took the flight and the same plane had given some serious engine trouble only a few weeks back?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(c) No, Sir. The plane was inspected and certified as safe for the flight to Bombay by appropriately licensed engineers, at 0030 hours on the 9th may 1953. The same plane is reported to have returned to the base at Bombay on the 3rd May 1953 due to engine trouble, but the engine had subsequently been changed.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Was the plane correctly loaded?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know how many times this plane had developed engine trouble: had it ever gone to the Hindustan Aircraft Factory for thorough check-up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was subjected to thorough check-up before it took off. In so far as development of engine trouble was concerned, I have indicated that in answer to part (c) of the question.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the reasons why of late our airways services have shown a definite, marked deterioration in the matter of providing safe and efficient air travel?

Shri Raj Bahadur: These accidents unfortunately occur, but I do not think we are in any way slack in the maintenance of standards of efficiency.

Shri Joachim Alva: Sir, the Communications Minister in answer to a question put by Shrimati Violet Alva in the other House said that Government had sold 172 Dakotas since 1947. What I want to know is whether Government have stipulated that the air companies should keep a certain number of Dakotas at centres of flying in case the scheduled service Dakotas develop trouble?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I wonder how this question arises. I am not aware of sale of Dakotas by Government; they may have been purchased from disposals by private parties.

Shri Namdhari: The hon. Minister said that the machine was certified to be all right. Was the pilot not drunk?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It will be improper for me to prejudge the result of investigations because the matter is yet under investigation. But so far as information is available with us, I do not think he was drunk.

Shri Bansal: Has it been brought to the notice of the Communications Ministry that pilots when they are flying towards Bombay drink too much?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There have been certain complaints. But no specific instance has been pointed out; otherwise we can subject them to check immediately. We are making surprise checks also. The Aerodrome Officer in charge of an aerodrome is always cautious about that.

Shri Bansal: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in a plane in which one of the Ministers of the Government was travelling, one pilot was found drunk and he had to be taken back to the cabin?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of the only particular incident.

श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि वायुयानों के कल पुर्जों का ऐक्सरे द्वारा भी जांच की जाती है या नहीं और वे कल पुर्जे ठीक पाये जाते हैं या नहीं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : ऐक्सरे द्वारा जांच नहीं की जाती है, लेकिन मैगनैटिक एवं प्रेसीशन इंस्ट्रूमेंट्स द्वारा जांच की जाती है और यदि उन में तनिक सी भी कोई दरार होती है या कोई भी खोट होती है तो उस का फौरन् ही इन इंस्ट्रूमेंट द्वारा पता लग जाता है और उन पुरजों को तुरन्त बदल दिया जाता है।

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Is it a fact that this ill-fated dakota took off eight minutes late and, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It took off at 1-25. Whether it was eight minutes late I am not quite sure.

Shri Gidwani: Are Government aware that in respect of the dakota that left for Karachi on the 6th, when it landed at Jaipur it was found that the petrol was leaking, and it was detained for over half an hour?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on the 9th May incident. We cannot go into all the other accidents.

Shri P. T. Chacko: There is a widespread notion among the public that the management has become very careless after the passing of the Air Corporations Bill. And this air crash actually occurred on the day when the Bill was passed. May I know whether the Government have anything to say on this matter?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are confident that they are not slack. Because it is not a question of the management being slack. It is a question which concerns the engineers and pilots who fly, who have to take the risk of not only the lives of passengers but of their own lives. They cannot afford to be slack.

The impression about Dakotas may also be cleared. It has been said that the manufacturers have advised—it was alleged the other day by an hon. Member—that Dakotas should not be used after 1953. We have made enquiries again from Douglas Aircraft Company, California and they said that they have never issued any such statement. 40,000 hours is the normal life of these Dakotas whereas none of the Dakotas that we have in use today has done more than 14,000 hours. So they have got a life of 26,000 hours more. Apart from that, Dakotas have done 50 to 60 thousand hours in U.S.A. and 40,000 hours in Australia and they are going strong. Again apart from

that, the Air Transport Enquiry Committee also have said in their report that they are the most reliable type of aircraft for short distance use.

Shrimati Maydeo: May I know whether all these aircraft were bought new or whether some of them were second-hand machines?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Those on external routes have been purchased new. Those on the internal routes were mostly purchased from Disposals, they have been re-conditioned and made fliable.

Shri Meghnad Saha: In view of the fact that so many accidents have taken place in recent years, will the Government kindly consider the necessity of having an all-embracing Committee to investigate into the reasons of these accidents—an all-embracing Committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We shall consider the proposal. But whenever any such accident occurs we make the engineers sit round and discuss the entire thing, try to find out the causes and remove them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will proceed to the next business.

Shri Joachim Alva: One question. It is very important. I have also given notice of the short notice question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already allowed him.

Shri Joachim Alva: Only one question you have allowed. I have also given notice of this question. I want to put one important question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. I am informed that generally in such cases where the same matter is given notice of by more than one hon. Member it is usual to give those Members some more chance than the other Members who have not tabled the question. This was not brought to my notice earlier. He may put his question.

Shri Joachim Alva: Does Government exercise a strict control or not before and after an air crash tragedy, and is it a fact that in Bombay the dead body of a German passenger was exhumed after it was delivered to the parties concerned?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are such rules which govern the investigation and examination of an accident, and they are strictly observed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Extension Development Projects

***2137. Shri Chinaria:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state when was the Extension Commissioner appointed at the Centre?

(b) Have all the States their Extension Commissioners?

(c) How many Extension Development Projects have been started and how many training Centres are being run?

(d) What is the number of persons trained and also those under training?

(e) What progress has been made in the Extension work and especially in PEPSU?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 1st November. 1951.

(b) Joint or Deputy Directors of Extension have so far been appointed in 19 States.

(c) All the 15 Pilot Extension Projects and 33 out of the 34 Extension Training Centres are in full working. The 15 Pilot Extension Projects are in addition to the 55 community projects started under the Community Projects Administration.

(d) 1,126 trainees have been trained and 1,338 are under training.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 5.]

Tube-well Construction

***2140. Shri Sivamurthi Swami:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision made in the Five Year Plan to invest money on construction of tube-wells in any State where the people are interested and ready to repay the money on instalment basis:

(b) if so, how many tube-wells are under construction and on what conditions, whether as loan or grant under the small scale irrigation scheme;

(c) if co-operative irrigation societies are organised by the people, what help will be given to the societies in general by the Planning authorities; and

(d) how many such societies have so far been helped and what is the total amount given?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). Information about the number of tube-wells under construction is not available. Tube-wells constructed by co-operative societies are eligible for subsidy up to a maximum of 25 per cent. of the cost. This subsidy is shared equally by the Centre and the State Government concerned. For the balance of the expenditure, the societies are entitled to obtain loans. A total loan of Rs. 30 (Thirty) lakhs has so far been given for the construction of tube-wells by the co-operative societies.

इन्दौर से दोहद तक की रेलवे लाइन का परिमापन

*२१४१. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह मेहता :** (क) रेल मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या इन्दौर से दोहद तक की रेलवे लाइन का प्रारम्भिक परिमापन कार्य पूरा हो चुका है ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त रेलवे लाइन पर कौन कौन से बड़े स्टेशन होंगे और इससे कितनी मील आबादी को लाभ होगा ?

(ग) इस रेलवे लाइन के बनाने के क्या विशेष फ़ायदे हैं और इसका अनुमानित व्यय कितना है ।

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The preliminary survey is still in progress.

(b) and (c). If this line is constructed it will connect Indore directy to the Bombay-Delhi line and will also develop the Bhil country. The particulars asked for will be available only after the survey work is completed.

JAPANESE EXPERT

*2150. **Shri Telkikar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Japanese Expert, under an I.L.O. Agreement, has arrived in India;

(b) whether he has organised and put forward any vocational training scheme for the plantation workers in India; and

(c) if so, what are his recommendations?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes. The I.L.O. Expert Mr. Teru Sasaki, a Japanese, arrived in India on the 15th February 1953.

(b) and (c). The Expert has not so far organised any scheme for the plantation workers. After a preliminary inspection of the tea-gardens in the Lower and Upper Assam, the expert has recently submitted his "Provisional Recommendations" to the Central Government and the Government of Assam. These recommendations are in the nature of three alternative plans for action and are under consideration.

ASSISTANCE FROM U.N.I.C.E.F.

*2154. **Shrimati Shakuntala:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government have received any offer of assistance from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for Maternity and Child Health Programme in the State of Uttar Pradesh?

(b) If so, what would be the shape and cost of that assistance?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 6.]

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANTS

*2155. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decided in 1948 to create one post of Assistant Accountant for every 250 officials attached to a Head Post Office or Head Record Office;

(b) whether the proposal was dropped due to financial stringency;

(c) whether Government propose to implement the formula evolved in 1948 for sanctioning posts of Assistant Accountants; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The question of prescribing a standard for sanctioning the posts of Assistant Accountants is under consideration.

COMMITTEE ON MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

***2159. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government have appointed a Committee of Experts on Manures and Fertilizers?

(b) If so, when was it constituted?

(c) What are the main functions of the Committee?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Yes. The Committee was set up on the 28th April, 1953, as a result of a recommendation of the Grow More Food Enquiry Committee which was accepted by Government. Committee's functions are given in a statement placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Functions of the Standing Committee of Experts on Manures and Fertilisers

(i) to render advice regarding the steps that should be taken for increasing the consumption of the existing desirable types of manures and fertilisers;

(ii) to take stock of the results of manurial research in India and foreign countries and to make suggestions for development of better use of manures and fertilisers in the different States;

(iii) to review periodically the progress made in India in the matter of production and consumption of indigenous manures and fertilisers; and

(iv) to recommend such other steps as may be necessary to achieve the above objectives.

PRIVILEGE PASSES

***2163. Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the merger of 50 per cent. of dearness allowance with the basic salary of the railway employees will have any beneficial effects in regard to the Privilege Pass of the railway employees;

(b) if so, the date from which this will take effect; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

STUDY OF SCARCITY CONDITIONS OF MADHYA BHARAT

***2168. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to send to Madhya Bharat a Committee to study the conditions of food scarcity affected areas there?

(b) If so, who are the Members of the Committee?

(c) Has any time limit been fixed for the Committee to submit its report?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The Government of India have agreed to send to Madhya Bharat a technical team to make suggestions about afforestation, soil conservation, water utilisation and improvement of fodder resources in the scarcity affected areas of the State. The composition of the team has not yet been settled.

(c) No.

SUPPLY OF MANURES

***2176. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have agreed to sell chemical manures at Rs. 75 per ton less than the usual rate to Madras State;

(b) if so, whether such concession will be given to the other States; and

(c) the date from which it will come into operation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The pool price for Ammonium Sulphate was Rs. 370 FOR Madras in 1952. This has been reduced to Rs. 310 for supplies made after 1st January 1953. A similar concession has been given to supplies made elsewhere also.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT DERAGOPIPUR

***2177. Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state the amount of grants sanctioned and paid out of the Central Road Fund to different State Governments during the year 1952-53?

(b) Have the Punjab Government approached the Central Government for such a grant for the construction of a bridge at Deragopipur on the River Beas?

(c) If so, for how much?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 7.]

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

NANGAL MANDI RAILWAY LINE

*2178. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under contemplation of the Railway Board to construct a railway line from Nangal township to Mandi town in Himachal Pradesh?

(b) If so, when will it be undertaken?

(c) What is its estimated cost?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

REPRESENTATION FROM MICA LABOUR UNION, JHUMRITELAIYA

*2180. **Shri B. D. Shastri:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Mica Labour Union, Jhumritelaiya Hazaribagh District (Bihar), protesting against the interference of the Revenue Minister of Bihar in the working of Labour Unions attached to the mica mines of Hazaribagh District?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) No

(b) Does not arise.

FURLOUGH LEAVE OF EX-SCINDIA STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*2181. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the furlough leave earned by the ex-Scindia State Railway employees has not been carried forward by the Central Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the case of employees of the former Gwalior State transferred to the other Central Government Departments, such furlough leave has been carried forward; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Instructions have been issued, both in respect of the Ex-Scindia State Rail-employees and in respect of the former Gwalior State employees transferred to other Central Government Departments, that the leave due under the old rules, should be carried forward subject to the limits prescribed in the new leave rules based on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. The Central Railway have not so far permitted the carry forward of furlough. No information regarding such carry forward in the case of employees of the former Gwalior State transferred to other Departments is available and the matter is being looked into with a view to removing disparity if any.

MEMORANDUM FROM INDIAN SEAMEN'S LEAGUE BOMBAY

*2182. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether the Government of India received any memorandum from the Indian Seamen's League, Bombay, demanding certain benefits and praying for the revision of the Merchant Shipping Act and increased wages, etc.?

(b) What action have Government taken or propose to take on the Memorandum?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) With the exception of a few demands, most of them relate to service conditions of seamen such as pension, gratuity, pay, leave, hours of duty, etc. These can be settled by negotiations between seamen and their employers.

As regards the other demands which concern Government directly, the Government of India are concerting measures for the setting up of Employment Offices for seaman, and have already relaxed suitably the standards of medical examination for seamen. The question of the revision of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, is also under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE-WELLS IN NORTH GUJRAT

*2185. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the total amount of loan advanced by the Central Government to

Bombay Government for the construction of 400 tube-wells in North Gujrat?

(b) How many tube-wells have been constructed so far by Messrs. National Tube-wells?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Rs. 40 lakhs.

(b) 25.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT BETWEEN KICHHA AND BEHARI STATIONS

***2188. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether 307 Down Nainital Express was derailed at 9-41 P.M. on Wednesday, the 30th April, 1953, between Kichha and Behari stations on the North Eastern Railway?

(b) What were the causes for this accident?

(c) How many persons succumbed to their injuries?

(d) What is the extent of damage caused to the railway property?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No. 307 Down Nainital Express derailed between Kichha and Behari stations at about 21-40 hours on 29-4-1953.

(b) The provisional conclusion of the Government Inspector of Railways who held an enquiry into the accident is that the accident was the result of sabotage.

(c) One succumbed to his injuries besides two who were killed on the spot.

(d) Rs. 39,000/- approximately.

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN KARAVAN TOWN

1461. Dr. Amin: (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an officer of the Posts and Telegraphs Department visited Karavan Town in Baroda District in March, 1953 in connection with the installation of a telephone service at that place?

(b) Was any proposal made by this officer to the people of Karavan that Government would provide telephone service in that town, if the people agreed to bear the loss, if any, incurred each year by Government for providing this service?

(c) If so, what are the reasons thereof?

(d) When will the telephone service be provided in Karavan town?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Inspector of Post Offices, Baroda, visited Karavan town on 27th February, 1953 to investigate the feasibility of conversion of the Karavan Branch Post Office into a Combined Sub Post Office with a Public Call Office.

(b) No. However, the Telephone Inspector asked the residents as to whether they would be willing to furnish a guarantee to make good the anticipated loss in case a telegraph office were opened.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) As will be seen from (a) above, the matter is already under consideration of the Department and a Public Call Office will be opened as soon as the arrangements to convert the Karavan Branch Office into an Extra Departmental Sub Office, can be made.

WORKERS ENGAGED ON DRY DRILLING PROCESS IN MINES

1462. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the workers working on dry drilling process in mines become generally consumptive?

(b) Do Government propose to stop this drilling process by legislation?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Workers who are exposed to the inhalation of dust laden air generated by the dry-drilling process are liable to contract diseases like silicosis and pneumoconiosis. Victims of these diseases are susceptible to ordinary tuberculosis.

(b) Under section 22 of the Mines Act, 1952 the Chief Inspector or an Inspector may, if he considers any matter, thing or practice in or connected with the mine to be dangerous to human life or safety, give notice in writing to the owner or manager of the mine to take remedial measures within a prescribed time. Orders are issued from time to time under this section requiring the provision of arrangements for wet-drilling or of efficient dust traps.

TRAINING CENTRES FOR SCHEDULED AREAS

1463. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of setting up Training Centres (both industrial and vocational) in the Scheduled Areas of different States of India;

(b) if not, whether Government have undertaken any survey of employment statistics in those areas; and

(c) if not, how Government contemplate to remove unemployment?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Not yet.

(b) No.

(c) Unemployment is a problem not confined to scheduled areas only. Removal of unemployment is one of the major aims of the Five Year Plan.

उदयपुर और दिल्ली के बीच चलने वाली रेलगाड़ी

१४६४. श्री बलवन्त सिंह मेहता : रेल मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सत्य है कि उदयपुर और दिल्ली के बीच जो कि ५०० मील का फ़ासला है, चलने वाली रेलगाड़ी में चार दर्जों वाला केवल एक ही डिब्बा लगाया जाता है ;

(ख) मालवा सेक्शन में उदयपुर से अजमेर के बीच के स्टेशनों से दिल्ली के लिये चलने वाले यात्रियों की प्रति दिन की औसत संख्या कितनी है; तथा

(ग) क्या सरकार यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिये और डिब्बे लगाने का विचार करती है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) One coach providing second, inter and third class accommodation is running between Delhi and Udaipur.

(b) The daily average number of passengers travelling from stations between Udaipur and Ajmer to Delhi is as follows:-

Second Class	5:3
Inter Class	9
Third Class	28

(c) No. One coach running at present is considered sufficient for the traffic offering.

JHANSI-MANIKPUR SECTION (CONGESTION)

1465. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an acute passenger traffic congestion results in the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Central Railway almost twice every month;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of passengers travel without any Railway tickets on such occasions;

(c) whether it is a fact that on several occasions, such passengers have been causing loss to railway property; and

(d) what steps are being taken to prevent recurrence of such happenings?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The question evidently relates to the small fair which is held almost every month at Chitrakot. There is some congestion but trains are strengthened to meet the additional traffic.

(b) A fairly large number of passengers have been taking advantage of the rush to travel without tickets.

(c) No specific cases of such passengers wantonly causing loss to railway property have been reported. It is, however, a common practice among passengers attending the fairs to carry lathis and it is possible that they at times use them to break open the shutters of the carriages.

(d) Adequate arrangements are being made on the occasions of these fairs. Additional ticket checking staff have recently been sanctioned to tighten up the checking arrangements.

MATCHWOOD PLANTATIONS

1466. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) in which States the Matchwood plantations are going to be started;

(b) the period after which they will come to maturity;

(c) the approximate number of plants sown per acre; and

(d) the approximate price to be obtained, per acre, after maturity?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Matchwood plantations have been started in U.P., Assam, Travancore-Cochin, Madras, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay.

(b) 30 to 40 years depending on species planted and locality.

(c) A large number of seedlings are raised. These, after frequent thinnings, yield a final crop of about 30 trees to an acre.

(d) About Rs. 2,000 per acre at current rates. It is difficult to estimate prices 40 years hence.

OVERBRIDGE AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION

1467. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether Government have received any representations requesting the construction of an overbridge at Srikakulam Road Station?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal will be placed before the Passengers' Amenities Committee of the Southern Railway for their consideration.

CULTIVATION OF JUTE

1468. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the improved methods of jute growing to the cultivators' plots around the Jute Agricultural Research Institute farm at Barrackpore;

(b) whether any extension centres will be opened there;

(c) if so, how many and when; and

(d) the cost involved in opening those centres?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes

(b) Yes.

(c) Three, during 1953-54.

(d) (i) Rs. 8,835/- during 1953-54.

(ii) Rs. 7,073/- during 1954-55.

(iii) Rs. 7,191/- during 1955-56.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF N. E. RAILWAY

1469. **Shri Ramananda Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the compensatory allowance is not paid to the engineering department staff of North Eastern Railway of Badshah Nagar Railway Station, whereas all other staff of North Eastern Railway stationed at Badshah Nagar gets the compensatory allowance?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to remove this discrimination?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Steps are being taken by the Railway Administration to remove the discrimination.

CHLORINE TANK WAGONS

1470. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** (a) will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has placed orders for liquid chlorine tank wagons in the United Kingdom?

(b) If so, when were the orders placed and for how many?

(c) When are the wagons due for delivery?

(d) How many wagons have been delivered so far?

(e) When will all the wagons be received?

(f) To whom have these wagons been allotted?

(g) Has there been any delay in the delivery of the wagons?

(h) If so, who is responsible for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Instructions have been issued to the Director General India Store Department, London, to place such an order for 10 broad gauge Chlorine Tank Wagons. No advice has yet been received regarding the placing of this order.

(c), (d) and (e). Does not arise.

(f) It is the intention to allot these special Tank Wagons as follows:—

Central Railway	3
Southern Railway	5
Western Railway	2

(g) and (h). Does not oarise.

CONTRACT FOR HANDLING IMPORT CARGO AT VISAKHAPATNAM PORT

1471. Shri K. Subrahmanyam: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether tenders were called this year for handling import cargo at Visakhapatnam Port?

(b) If so, how many tenders were received and what were their respective quotations?

(c) Who was given the contract?

(d) Was he the lowest tenderer?

(e) If not, why was he given the contract?

(f) Is it a fact that the same person got the contract last year also, under identical circumstances?

(g) Since how many years has he been having the contract?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Three tenders were received and on the basis of the expected tonnage in a year, the total value of the contract according to the quotations tendered worked out as follows:—

1. First tenderer Rs. 1,14,515/-
2. Second tenderer Rs. 1,13,312/-
3. Third tenderer Rs. 1,12,437/-

(c) Messrs. Ramabrahmam & Sons were given the contract.

(d) No.

(e) Messrs. Ramabrahmam & Sons were the second lowest tenderer, and the contract was let out to them as the lowest tenderer failed to satisfy the authorities as regards their experience and financial soundness.

(f) The contract for the last year, namely, 1952-53, was let out to the same firm, but not exactly under identical circumstances.

(g) From 1934 with a break in 1947-48.

ROAD SCHEMES IN HYDERABAD

1472. Shri Telkikar: Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the road schemes in Hyderabad State approved up to 31st March, 1953, covering the cost of Rs. 48;58 lakhs;

(b) whether the amount includes any expenditure on or for the construction of any bridge; and

(c) if so, the names of rivers over and places at which bridges will be built?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The road and bridge schemes, including the names of the rivers and of the crossings, in Hyderabad.

(1) Construction of the Utnoor-Asifabad Road (35 miles), Adilabad District.

(2) Construction of a high level causeway across the Bhima river on the Gulberga-Surapur Road, Gulberga District.

(3) Construction of a causeway across the Kagna river at Malkhed on the Gulberga-Kodangal Road, Gulberga District.

(4) Construction of a bridge across the Penganga river on the Wasim-Hingoli Road between Rajgaon in Madhya Pradesh and Kanhargaon in Hyderabad.

COMMERCIALISATION OF RAILWAY COLLIERIES

1473. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 89 asked on the 5th June, 1952 and state whether any decision has been taken by Government as regards the commercialisation of Government Railway Collieries and constituting them into a Joint-Stock Company?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The question is still under the consideration of the Production Ministry.

RAILWAY LANDS

1474. Shri K. P. Sinha: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 200 acres of Railway lands near Pussa Road Station have been recently settled for agricultural purposes;

(b) the total amount of consideration realised by Government under this settlement;

(c) whether the lands were cultivable or fallow; and

(d) the market price of similar lands in the vicinity with similar advantages at the time of settlement?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No. Only about 31 acres in strips by the side of railway bank between Samastipur and Dholi have been let for 1 year by public auction through the Bihar Government for agricultural purposes.

(b) Rs. 900/- for the above lands.

(c) The land was lying fallow but is cultivable.

(d) The information required will be obtained from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NURSING PROJECTS

1475. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) how many sister tutors have been supplied by W.H.O. during 1952-53 to help Nursing Projects in India:

(b) in which places they are working at present; and

(c) how much equipment and supplies have been made by W.H.O. during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Four.

(b) One in Madras and three in Calcutta.

(c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

VILLAGE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATIVE SCHEMES

1476. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States that submitted proposals for grants-in-aid against specific road projects undertaken on a co-operative basis under the Village Road Development Co-operative Scheme;

(b) how many proposals have been approved; and

(c) how much money has been sanctioned against each proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Punjab, Vindhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) The proposals made by Punjab and Vindhya Pradesh have been approved.

(c) Rs. 91,600, and Rs. 25,000, respectively.

CRECHES

1477. Shri Telkikar: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the Industrial towns in India, specially in Hyderabad State, where creches or nursery classes for children are set up for the welfare of labourers; and

(b) the annual running and establishment expenditure of a creche of the medium size accommodating about 100 children?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course. In the case of Hyderabad State, there are creches in Aurangabad, Nanded, Dhan, Warrangal, Sirpur, Gulbarga, Secundrabad and Hyderabad. The annual cost is approximately sixteen thousand rupees for eighty children.

MOBILE POST OFFICES

1478. Shri Badshah Gupta: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the earnings made during 1952-53 by Government on account of Mobile Post Offices in Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement showing the cost and income of the Mobile Post Office plying in Delhi-New Delhi during the year 1952-53 is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 8] The difference between income and cost cannot be treated as earning, because a portion of the business transacted by the Mobile Post Office represents diversion of traffic from stationary offices.

QUASI-RAILWAY BODIES

1479. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has treated Co-operative Stores, Railway Institutes and Co-operative Credit Societies of the old N.W. & B.A. Railways as quasi-Railway bodies and given to the ex-employees of these

bodies the benefits of their past service;

(b) if so, whether similar treatment has been accorded to the ex-employees of other quasi-Government bodies of West Pakistan; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Railway Board have not treated Co-operative Stores. Railway Institutes and Co-operative Credit Societies of the old N.W. and B.A. Railways as quasi-railway bodies for giving to the ex-employees of these bodies the benefits of their past services. In the case of the staff of the N.W. Railway Employees' Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. who were absorbed on the Indian Railways after providing for surplus railway staff who had come over from Pakistan, however, instructions were issued that General Managers may take into consideration their service under the Society in fixing their pay at suitable stages in the prescribed scales. General Managers of the Railway Administrations have normally powers to do this in respect of any direct recruits, having due regard to their qualifications and experience.

(b) No, so far as the Railway Ministry is concerned.

(c) The employees of these institutions are not railway servants and are not entitled to the privileges or concessions available to the latter. These institutions are also not quasi-railway bodies nor are there any grounds for treating them as such.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN TRIPURA

1480. Shri Biren Dutt: Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experienced Road Engineer visited Tripura during 1952-53; and

(b) whether expert advice was taken on the construction of different roads through hill areas of Tripura?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, in January 1952.

(b) The Roads Organisation of the Ministry of Transport provides expert advice on the construction of roads in the entire State of Tripura.

REBATE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON AVIATION FUEL

1481. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the total amount of rebate of Customs duty on aviation fuel granted from 1st March, 1949 up to date, year-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The hon. member is presumably referring to the subsidy granted to the air companies on the basis of petrol consumed by them. A statement showing the total subsidy paid to the Indian air operators during the period 1st March, 1949 to the 31st March, 1953 on the basis of the quantity of petrol consumed by them on internal flights is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The total amount of subsidy paid during the period from 1. 3. 1949 *to* 31. 3. 1953 *to Indian air operators in respect of petrol consumed by them on internal flights.*

Year	Amounts paid
	Rs
1949-50	28,67,234
1950-51	67,31,121
1951-52	42,99,379
1952-53	35,69,072
Grand Total	1,74,66,806

CARRIAGE OF MAIL BY AIR

1482. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid to the Air Transport Companies for carrying mails during the years 1945 to 1952 year-wise;

(b) the rates at which the charges for carrying mails were calculated during the above mentioned years; and

(c) how the rates had been arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 9]

BEE-KEEPING INDUSTRY

1483. Shri Buchhikotaiah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1355 asked on

the 16th April, 1953 regarding bee-keeping industry and state:

(a) the proposals made by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Bee-keeping; and

(b) in what way Government are going to operate these proposals?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) It is understood that the following proposals were made by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Bee-keeping (a non-official body) at its meeting in March, 1953:—

1. To appoint one organiser for six months on salary of not more than Rs. 200/- per month to give instructions and guidance to bee-keepers particularly to the members of the Council.

2. To approach various Ministries i.e. Labour. Education and Agriculture to introduce training in bee-keeping in their sphere.

(b) The Government of India have not received any communication from the Council so far.

INTENSIVE CULTIVATION SCHEMES

1484. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the nature of the intensive cultivation schemes in hand now in the Centrally-Administered Areas?

(b) In what particular areas are these schemes being worked out?

(c) What is the detailed expenditure on each during the current year?

(d) Why are the details of these schemes not given in the Budget Papers of the current year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Intensive cultivation schemes in the Centrally Administered areas, as in other areas, fall generally under the following categories:—

(i) Irrigation schemes.

(ii) Land improvement schemes.

(iii) Distribution of fertilisers, manures and seeds.

(iv) Miscellaneous schemes like crop protection, crop competition, fisheries and publicity.

(b) These schemes are worked out in selected areas which have natural facilities like assured rainfall or irrigation.

(c) The current year's programme of GMF schemes for part C States has not yet been finalised.

(d) In the case of GMF schemes for part C, as also for part A & B States, Central allotments are made annually on a lump sum basis and included in the Central Demand for Grants. Individual schemes for each State are scrutinised and sanctioned annually about the close of the previous financial year onwards. from within the lump sum provision thus made.

FANS AND LIGHTS IN RAILWAY COMPARTMENES ON WESTERN RAILWAY

1485. Shri C. Bhatt: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total amount allotted for the provision of fans and lights in III class carriages on the Western Railway?

(b) How much of it has so far been spent?

(c) In how many carriages have fans and lights been provided and on what Sections?

(d) Have the fans and lights been provided in the III class carriages on the Ankleshwar-Rajpipla line?

(e) If not, when are they to be provided?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Separate funds are not provided for the provision of fans in III Class compartments. Funds for this purpose are met from provision made for Passenger Amenities, in the Budget. Figures of the amount spent in providing fans in III Class carriages are not separately maintained.

(c) Fans have been fitted in 555 III Class carriages on the Western Railways. Information by Sections is not available.

(d) No.

(e) Provision for lights and fans on this section has been made in the 1953-54 Rolling Stock Programme.

HINDI TELEGRAMS

1486. Shri H. G. Vaishnav: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of telegraph-offices in Hyderabad State where

telegrams in Hindi can be sent and received as per latest arrangements?

(b) How many and at what places the trunk-call telephone-offices, except those in Hyderabad and Secunderabad, exist in the Hyderabad State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) At Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

(b) 26. The names of stations are given in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 10.]

EXPORT OF *Jawar* FROM HYDERABAD

1487. Shri H. G. Vaishnav: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of *Jawar* agreed to be exported from Hyderabad State during the next two months; and

(b) to what States it would be exported and at what rate?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) About 40,000 tons consisting of both old and new *jawar*.

(b) This *jawar* will be exported to Bombay, Madras and Mysore. The price will vary between Rs. 9/12/6 per maund to Rs. 11/8/9 per maund depending on quality.

देहरादून में हवाई अड्डे का निर्माण

१४८८ **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह:** (क) संचार मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार देहरादून में हवाई अड्डा बनाने का विचार कर रही है ?

(ख) यदि हां तो वह योजना कब तक क्रियान्वित की जायेगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

1489. Shri Joachim Alva: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the North Kanara District figures in the scheme for National Highways?

(b) When do Government propose to link the North Kanara District with the National Highways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) There is no such proposal.

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर दुर्घटनायें

१४९० **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या रेल मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जनवरी १९५३ से अप्रैल १९५३ तक पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर रेल के पटरी से उतर जाने के कारण कितनी दुर्घटनायें हुईं;

(ख) इन में से कितनी दुर्घटनायें पटरी की खराबी से और कितनी रेलवे कर्मचारियों की असावधानी के कारण हुईं ; तथा

(ग) क्या सरकार ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कुछ विशेष प्रबन्ध करना सोच रही है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Particulars are being collected and will be furnished as soon as they are ready.

FERTILIZERS

1491. Shri P. C. Bose: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of Ammonium Sulphate that were used as fertilizer during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demand of this fertilizer is gradually decreasing particularly in some States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) According to the information available the following quantities of Sulphate of Ammonia were consumed as fertilizers during the last three years:—

Year	Quantity (Tons)
1950	2,85,114·08
1951	2,59,217·91
1952	2,27,207·80

(b) and (c). A statement showing the quantities of Sulphate of Ammonia consumed in the various State Governments and by the commercial interests during the last three years is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix XII, annexure No. 11.] It will be observed that while there was a general increase in consumption in the States during 1951, the consumption decreased in some States during 1952. The main reasons for the decrease were insufficient rain and high price of the fertilizer.

REGULATOR-*cum*-ROAD BRIDGE OVER RIVER KRISHNA

1492. Shri Buchhikotaiah: Will the Minister of **Transport be pleased to** state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals for the construction of a regulator-*cum*-road bridge over the River Krishna Anicut have reached recently the Centre from Madras State Government;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the Table of the House;

(c) whether Government propose to put the plan into operation at an early date; and

(d) if so, when the work will be started?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not considered necessary to place these technical proposals on the Table of the House.

(c) As the proposals received were incomplete and did not take into consideration the technical comments previously offered by the Consulting Engineer Roads, the Madras Government have been asked to submit modified plans and estimates and fuller details in the light of these comments.

(d) After the plans and estimates are finalised.

FISHERIES RESEARCH STATIONS

1493. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the number of Fisheries Research Stations in India and their main activities?

(b) What is the total amount spent on these Stations since their inception?

(c) Are any foreign experts working in any of these Research Stations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Information concerning State Governments has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House, when received. The requisite information in so far as the Central Government are concerned, is as follows:—

(a) Two, *viz.*. (1) Central Inland Fisheries Research Station, Barrackpore (Calcutta) and (2) Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Mandapam Camp (South India).

The Inland Fisheries Research Station, with its Sub-station at Cuttack, is engaged in investigations on pond, estuarine, riverine and lacustrine fisheries, with particular reference to fisheries of Hilsa. Mullets and Major carps, such as Rohu, Catla and Mrigal. Techniques of collection of spawn and rearing and transport of fry and fingerlines of major carps for fish culture are also being studied and nominees of State Governments and private candidates trained in administration and development of inland fisheries.

Marine Fisheries Research Station and its sub-Stations at Calicut, Karwar, Cochin and Madras are engaged in investigations on feeding and breeding habits of marine fishes of commercial importance and on various hydro-biological factors influencing growth and development of fishes. The principal fisheries under investigation are silver bellies, perches, sharks and rays, milk fish, prawns, sardine, mackerel, oysters and clams, etc.

(b) Rs. 36,47,772/- upto 31-3/- 1953.

(c) No.

ARTICLE 39 (e) OF THE CONSTITUTION

1494. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what measures have been or are proposed to be enacted by Government under article 39(e) of the Constitution?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): For safeguarding the health and strength of workers, including children, employed in factories, plantations and mines, Government have enacted legislations like the Employment of Children Act, 1938, the Factories Act, 1948, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, and the Mines Act, 1952. The Five Year Plan also contains recommendations for securing effective enforcement of these Acts. Plans also exist to protect the health of citizens. Proper implementation of these should help in furthering the object of the first part of Article 39 (e) of the Constitution.

Removal of economic factors which force citizens to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength and which is the objective of the second part of Article 39(e) can come about only gradually with reduction in unemployment, raising the standards of living of masses and provision of security against the various hazards of life. The Five Year Plan has *inter-alia* the object of raising the standard of living among the masses and reducing unemployment. Some limited beginning has also been made in providing social security to industrial workers by enactment of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952. The State is thus moving in the direction of fulfilling the objective of the second part of the Article.

GANNAVARAM AERODROME

1494-A. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land occupied by the aerodrome at Gannavaram (Vijayawada);

(b) how much of it is suitable for cultivation;

(c) whether Government propose to release any land for cultivation; and

(d) if so, to what extent and in what manner?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 497 acres.

(b) About 200 arcres.

(c) and (d). An area of 50 acres has already been leased out for cultivation and a further area of 10 acres is proposed to be leased. The rest of the land is required for operational purposes and it is not proposed to lease it.

SURVEY OF MALNAD

1494-B. Shri Joachim Alva: Will the Minister for **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state: (a) whether Government have undertaken any survey of the area comprising South and North Kanara Districts, Mysore, and Kerala popularly known as the Malnad area:

(b) if so, have Government drawn any report on the Malnad territory;

(c) what are the resources of this area and how do Government propose to exploit them in the inteests of the people of that area?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The Government of India have not carried out any survey of the Malnad area. In 1950 they appointed a Central Malnad Planning Committee to draw up a comprehensive plan for the development of Malnad areas situated in Madras, Bombay, Mysore and Coorg States, covering all possible lines of development in that region. One of the recommendations made by this Committee was that an aerial survey of the hills and dense forest in the Malnad was a primary necessity and should be arranged immediately. It was not possible for the Government of India to implement the Committee's recommendations in view of the heavy expenditure involved and it was left to the State Governments to implement the recommendations of the Committee out of their own resources. Furthermore now there is a five year plan which allocates the available resources to various projects.

(c) According to the Central Malnad Planning Committee, this region has untapped natural resources in minerals, land, water, power and forests. The practical possibility of exploiting these resources is yet to be explored. Provision has been made, though in a small measure, for the development of this region in the 5-Year-Plan of the four States concerned, particularly of the Mysore State.

DECONTROL OF FOODGRAINS IN MYSORE

1494-C. Shri Shivananjappa: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Mysore have removed food control in Mysore State from 1st May, 1953;

(b) whether the Government of Mysore have got enough of food stocks to meet emergencies;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of rice have gone below the Government issue prices in the recent past:

(d) the recent trend of food prices; and

(e) whether in view of the lifting of food control, the Central Government have fulfilled their allocation of food grains during the calendar year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The latest information has been asked for.

(d) The prices of *jawar* and *ragi* in January, February and March, 1953 were less than those prevailing in November and December last year. In April, however, they increased slightly as is common at this time of the year, being the offseason for *jawar* and *ragi*.

(e) Only 4 months of the Calendar year have yet passed. The promised supplies will be made available during the course of the year.

Dated.....[illegible]

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 14th May, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

9-27 A.M.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Council of States:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1953, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 13th May, 1953".

DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Secretary: I beg to lay on the Table the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1953, as passed by the Council of States.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION *re* ACCIDENTS IN CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINES ETC.

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Labour Notification No. M-45(7)/52, dated the 5th May, 1953, containing the Report of the Court of Enquiry appointed to investigate the causes of the accidents in the Champion Reef Gold Mines on the 19th April and 30th June, 1952 and in the Ooregaum Gold Mine on the 19th August, 1952, in pursuance of the undertaking given on the 4th August, 1952. [*Placed in Library. See* No. IV. R. 55a (1).]

STATEMENT SHOWING EXTENT OF SCARCITY CONDITIONS

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): I beg to lay on the Table copies of fortnightly statements showing the extent of scarcity conditions prevailing in various parts of the country and the measures taken to relieve distress, in pursuance of the undertaking given in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 138, asked on the 18th February, 1953. [*See* Appendix XIV, annexure 6.]

ESTATE DUTY BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion:

"That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): I fully support the report of the Select Committee, not because we think that the Bill goes as far as some of us on this side or on the other side may wish, but because it represents a very fair measure of compromise between the various sections represented in this House reflecting the electorate.

The first thing that this Bill has sought to do is to bring about a sort of equality in the distribution of

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wealth. I agree that it has not set it as its objective to bring about an egalitarian society, but what it has endeavoured to do is to reduce the great inequalities that have been perpetuated by the various systems of inheritance prevalent in this country so far. The Bill proceeds on the footing that perpetuation of property for an indefinite length of time should as far as possible be curtailed, and for that purpose it has levied a duty on the accumulated property of the person after his death.

Shri Gidwani (Thana): Sir, we are not able to follow. There is too much noise.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members who do not want to sit here may kindly go out without making noise.

An Hon. Member: There will be no quorum then!

Shri Venkataraman: This measure is commended by economists all the world over as the most ideal method of taxation. It falls between two stools, literally. The man is dead and therefore he does not bear the burden of the tax. The person who inherits has not come into possession and therefore he loses nothing of that which he does not possess. Therefore it is really an ideal kind of tax that can be levied. (*Dr. P. S. Deshmukh*: At the psychological moment!) And it is levied, as my hon. friend Dr. Deshmukh says, at the psychological moment, that is at the time of expectation of inheritance.

The first criticism that is levelled against the levy of an estate duty is that it does not take into account the several kinds of heirs who inherit property, namely the nearness of the heirs as compared with the remoteness of the heirs, and also the amount of the property inherited by the individual. Death duty, all over the world, consists of three parts; one, estate duty on the amount of property left by the deceased, secondly, a succession duty depending on the amount of inheritance which each individual gets and thirdly a legacy duty which is based on the nearness of the heirs and also on the expectancy of getting a legacy. For instance, if an utter stranger is bequeathed by a person of a large amount of legacy, it is an elementary principle of pubic finance that he has got greater capacity to bear the burden of tax than a person who is a near heir. For instance the burden of taxation on a distant nephew or cousin can be greater than on a person who is, say, the son but all these three taxes cumulated together form the duties in other countries. We find there is opposition to the exemption limit fixed in the Bill, to all the exemptions so far granted and there is a great demand from a section of the House for increasing the exemption. It is very difficult to convince this House and the country that the time is ripe now to introduce all the three taxes at the same time. It is not possible now to have a succession duty, to have a legacy duty and an estate duty, all together at the same time. The country is not prepared for it. Therefore, of all the three duties, the estate duty which is most easily administered and which is assessed far more easily than the other two duties has been accepted as the basis for taxation in our country. People who complain that the amount of inheritance which is taken by a person is not taken into account for the purpose of levying a duty really ask for more than what is now proposed by the House. They cannot escape by saying that you have not introduced a succession duty and therefore estate duty is bad. On the contrary, the arguments lead to the conclusion that you must not only levy an estate duty but you must also levy a succession duty and possibly a legacy duty.

The criticism that has been made by some of the Members of the Select Committee in their dissenting minutes is really beside the point because they want to show that a succession duty is not levied in this country and therefore estate duty should not be levied. The history of the estate duties all over the world will clearly show that a succession duty and a legacy duty are levied in addition to the estate duty and not in substitution of the other. There is no point at all in the criticism that we must have a succession duty and not an estate duty.

Then I ask this House how far is it just and equitable that the property which a person inherits to the accumulation of which he has not contributed anything should be allowed to be taken by him without any tax. You all know the famous Italian Economist Rignano who said that no property should survive for more than three generations. He said that at the end of the first generation, one third of it should go as tax to the State at the end of the second generation, one third should go and at the end of the third generation, the entire property should go to the State. This is also based on something like our own Hindu philosophy. The right to property under Hindu law is based upon the oblations that one offer to the progenitors and nobody offers

oblations for more than three generations. Therefore, in order to prevent the perpetuation of property in the families, the levy of an estate duty is the most equitable and just and proper way of taxation.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Marelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Caste): There is a lot of noise in the House. We cannot hear.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members may kindly sit with patience.

Shri Venkataraman: The next question is what should be the exemption limit? Some of the friends have said that the proper exemption limit should be Rs. 25,000/- and they compare the estate duty laws in England which provide for an exemption of about £2000. There are others who refer to the law of the United States of America and say that the exemption limit should be 100,000 dollars, *i.e.* to say, as much as Rs. 5 lakhs. It is no use referring to the exemption limit in other countries. The exemption limit of each country is based on the economic standard of life and the relative position of the people in that country and not on a comparison with what obtains in other countries. It is therefore in the wisdom of the Select Committee that they decided that Rs. 50,000/- should be a fair and equitable exemption so far as India is concerned. There are others who wanted a lakh of rupees as exemption and they argue that in this country, the middle class would be ruined by this taxation. I want to ask this House what exactly is meant by the middle class? There is no definition for this term middle class known to anybody in the whole world. A middle class man in India is different from a middle class man in Europe and in the U.S.A. To decide what is a middle class depends upon the general economic well being of the country and in our view, the middle class in India is certainly a person who does not own anything like one lakh rupees. A man who owns property worth one lakh rupees in this country is certainly on the richer side rather than on the lower side. Therefore, the sum of Rs. 50,000/- which has been accepted by the Select Committee is a most reasonable figure which is consistent with the standard of living and economic conditions in this country. People who seek to raise the exemption limit to Rs. one lakh really want that the richer class of people should be exempted. They want that the tax should be leviable only on very few persons.

The next question is, after having fixed this exemption, what are the differences between the several systems of Hindu inheritance in this country, the Hindu system of joint family, the Dayabhaga school and the Mitakshara school. Great stress was made by some people that in the case of Dayabhaga family, the tax would fall heavily on them while in the case of a Mitakshara family, the tax would not fall so heavily. Let us examine this position. If you take a family unit consisting of a father and three sons, in the Hindu joint family and in the Mitakshara schools, whenever a junior member dies, provided he is over 18 years of age, the tax is payable by the member of the joint Hindu family. If you take corresponding instance of a Dayabhaga family consisting of a father and three sons, you will see that if a junior member dies, they need not pay any tax under this law. Now people who say that the Dayabhaga family is hit harder will ponder over this issue. In the case of a Mitakshara family, while a junior member dies, tax is leviable. In the case of a Dayabhaga family, tax is not leviable when such a member dies. It may be asked, is it not reasonable to expect that the senior member should die earlier and there will be more cases of death of the head of the family rather than of junior members. It is very difficult to postulate how death visits people. But, if you take a generation, say 30 years, and then take the number of deaths both in a Dayabhaga family and in a Mitakshara family, you would find the same ratio, because they are more or less in the same class of people. The number of deaths of junior and senior members in a Hindu Dayabhaga family as well as in a Hindu Mitakshara family would be more or less alike.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal Distt. *cum* Almora Distt.—South West *cum* Bareilly Distt.—North): May I point out that there will be no death duty on deaths below 18 years even in a Mitakshara family?

Shri Venkataraman: That is what I said even in the beginning.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): You said junior member.

Shri Venkataraman: Except the manager, all other members are junior members. I talked in the language of law and I am afraid it has not been properly understood. A junior member does not mean a minor member. They have misunderstood the expression junior member for a minor member.

Shri Heda: You could have said coparcener.

Shri Venkataraman: A junior member is a person who is not the head of the family, who is not the manager. The

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point I was driving at is this. The Dayabhaga family is not hard hit and is not differentiated: in fact, it is in no worse or disadvantageous position than a Mitakshara family.

Dr. M. M. Das (Burdwan—Reserved—Sch. Castes): No.

Shri Venkataraman: A mere 'No' will not carry conviction to this House. You must be able to show why it is no. The time will come when my hon. friend Dr. M. M. Das will be able to advance much better arguments than I can to convince this House that the burden is heavier on the Dayabhaga family. But, nobody can really answer this particular question namely where a junior member in the Dayabhaga family dies, no tax is paid whereas in the same circumstances, when a junior member in a Mitakshara family dies, he pays tax under this Bill

I will now proceed to the next question, namely exemptions The exemptions granted under this Act are very liberal. The Finance Minister detailed all the ten cases of exemptions and said that it came to Rs. 16,500. I think he was very charitable to the parents who did not get daughters. If you take the average number of daughters for whom provision is made at two, even then, the amount of exemptions would come to nearly Rs. 21,000, excluding such things like books not for sale, wearing apparel, insurance for death duties which are assigned to Government and so on. Therefore, the exemptions are really very large. You cannot add to these exemptions at all. If you add to these exemptions, you are defeating one other clause in the Bill, the clause which deals with exemption limit of Rs. 50,000 for a Mitakshara family and Rs. 75,000 for a Dayabhaga family. Therefore, that object must be clearly maintained in our view. Do you want a higher exemption or a lower exemption? Do you want to increase the exemption from Rs. 50,000 to one lakh or do you not want it. If you want that the exemption should be raised, there is no use going on increasing the exemption granted under clause 32. You must ask for an increased exemption under clause 34. It was suggested in the Select Committee at one stage that there should be no exemptions under clause 32 and the limit under clause 34 may be raised. But, people were not willing to accept that proposition because they wanted that the sentiments of the people should be satisfied in regard to personal effects, household furniture, chattel, gifts to poor relations or servants and so on. You cannot have it both ways. Unless you say that this Bill should be made so ineffective that only people having property worth more than 5 lakhs should be held liable to pay the tax, you cannot go on increasing the exemptions. If you really want that an upper middle class man, who is over a certain level of competence, who has property of over Rs. 50,000 should pay the tax, any further demand to increase the exemptions granted under clause 32 would only defeat the purpose for which this Bill is brought.

While dealing with clause 32, I may also deal with another subject. An appeal is made to the sentiment of the people saying that the residential house should also be exempted from the death duties. The residential house may be worth from Rs. 500 to 5 lakhs or 50 lakhs. It may be worth crores in the case of princes. If you say merely that the residential house should be exempted, then, it means you are giving the benefit to the richest class of persons whom it is your intention to tax. You are trying to placate that very class of persons who are intended to be roped in, in this Bill. I do not see any justification for excluding residential house. On the other hand, if you want that the residential house should be included under clause 32, you can reduce the exemption limit under clause 34. Let us reduce the exemption of property under clause 34 to say, Rs. 30,000 and then allow the residential house of the value of not more than say, 10,000 rupees. But, you cannot have the same exemption under clause 34, namely Rs. 50,000, and then ask for exemption of the residential house, of whatever value it may be, under clause 32. I am strongly against the exemption of the residential house unless the House is prepared to accept that the exemption under clause 34 is reduced correspondingly. Residential house is only a cloak to get more concessions out of this Bill, which, according to me, is already very much watered down.

Now, I come to aggregation. So far as aggregation of tax is concerned, it has followed a very salutary rule that all these exemptions under clause 32 will be taken into account only for the purpose of determining the rate of tax, but will be excluded for the purpose of levying the tax. The principle is very sound and has been accepted in the case of the Income-tax Act also. There is nothing new in saying that the exempted categories of property will be taken into account for the purpose of computing the rate, but will not be taken into account for the purpose of assessing and levying a tax on that property. Yesterday, Mr. Vallatharas made a point that if a person is

owning property of the value of Rs. 49,999 he will not be liable to pay the tax, but if he owns property of the value of Rs. 50,001, he will immediately become liable to pay the tax. Mr. Vallatharas, I am afraid, did not understand the scope of this Bill, clause 34 of our Bill says that it shall not be taken into account for the purpose of levying the tax. That is to say, this Rs. 50,000, which is the exempted amount, will be totally excluded for the purpose of computation of tax and the tax will be levied in the instance cited by Mr. Vallatharas, on 1 rupee and not Rs. 50,001. The difference between the slab system and the step system has got to be understood. If we had followed the step system, then, the tax would have been payable on Rs. 50,001. But, we have adopted the slab system by which only that amount which is over and above the exempted limit will become liable for the tax. That is a very salutary principle.

Then, there is another matter about agricultural property. Agricultural property has got to be treated slightly differently from other property partly because it is difficult to sell it, partly because of difficulty of market, and also because our country is largely agricultural. For this purpose it was suggested that exemption limit, so far as agricultural property is concerned, should be raised to higher than what it is now under the Bill. There are two ways of solving the problem. It may be that the exemption limit may be raised so far as agricultural property is concerned, or it can be that the rate of duty on agricultural property can be less than on other property. In this connection, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that when he introduces the Bill levying taxes, he may adopt the other principle, *viz.*, of levying a lower rate of tax so far as agricultural property is concerned, and the exemption limit may be retained as it is.

Dr. M. M. Das: Why should there be any difference?

Shri Venkataraman: The difference is because of the character of the country. A large number of people are living on agriculture. There is difficulty in finding a market for agricultural property and the difficulty of the agriculturists pure and simple being able to find the money as other people engaged in business are able to do. That is the real basis.

Dr. M. M. Das: What is the percentage of the peasants who will own that amount of agricultural land as will be charged for taxes? There will be very few.

Shri Venkataraman: It differs from place to place. In the district from which I come quite a large number of people own very large properties in agriculture.

Shri C. D. Pande: And that is why he is against them?

Shri Venkataraman: And my friend Mr. Pande comments that is why I am against them.

These are the main provisions of the Bill about which an ordinary citizen is concerned. You may ask why are there so many other Clauses, 62 Clauses in this Bill running over several complicated sentences of very difficult construction? It is because the human ingenuity tries to defeat any provision of law. If you look at the Clauses in the Bill, the relevant portions which concern a citizen in this country are very simple: the exemption under Clause 34, exemptions under Clause 32, and then the provisions relating to the levy of tax and the collection of the tax. That is all. But then we have to bring the other Clauses in the Bill in order to prevent evasion of the law. Human ingenuity always attempts to defeat the purpose of the law by various subterfuges allowed under the law of the land.

Now, take for instance a man who thinks he must evade the tax. He can give away a large portion of his property as gift, or he may create a sort of public company so that the tax may not be paid by the public company; or he may create a Trust, private as well as public, either reserving for himself or to the members of his family large benefits. It is to prevent the evasion in these several ways that very complicated Clauses have been introduced. In the case of gifts, no gift which has been made less than two years before the death would be exempt from tax, and this is a salutary principle because nobody can anticipate that he would die two years hence. And then, two years is quite a long period to prevent people from making bogus gifts also. Suppose they survive after these two years for a period of 20 years, they would have lost the property. Therefore, gifts which are not genuine will not be made by reason of this rule.

Take again the case of the controlled company. That prevents evasion of the tax by creation of a public company having all the controlling interests in one person, and then making a show or a legal fiction of the existence of a company. So, the Clause relating to controlled companies has been introduced largely as a method

[Shri Venkataraman]

of preventing evasion. That is all. The Clauses there are only to prevent the evasion and all the disputes which are likely to arise will be between the tax gatherer on the one side and the tax evader or dodger on the other. And Clauses 10 to nearly 30 will provide a fairly good hunting field for lawyers when the cases come up before the Courts. As it is these Clauses are not intended to supplement the legislation, but merely to prevent evasion of the tax by anybody who wishes to dodge.

10 A.M.

Then, a claim is made in regard to insurance. They said that the amount which is invested in insurance should be exempted. Evidence was also led in the Select Committee that the amount of money invested in insurance should be exempted from the levy of death duty. I asked them what is the principle behind it. If the amount of money invested in insurance is irrevocably assigned to some other person two years before the death of the person, then it becomes a valid gift as the Bill now exists, not if the person continues to have an interest in the life insurance policy. As we all know, in the case of an endowment policy, the person gets the money if he survives the period fixed, but if he dies, it goes to the person nominated by him in the policy of insurance. Therefore, so long as the rest is reserved by the person in himself in an insurance policy, it cannot be treated differently from another property. Now, if you want to exclude insurance property, you must make it very clear that it must come within the Clause relating to gifts, that it should have been made over totally, unreservedly, to some other person two years before the death of the individual.

There may be some honest difference of opinion on some of these matters. I shall proceed to deal with them. One is whether the Central Board of Revenue should be the appellate authority or whether you should have a separate Appellate Tribunal for this purpose. On this question, it is not possible for anybody to be dogmatic. The utility of an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of deciding questions of law is very great, very high, but where the question is only one relating to the valuation of property, where the question is not likely to be very much as to the interpretation of law so much as the valuation of the property, certainly the Central Board of Revenue can be expected to be. and it has been in the past, very sympathetic towards the assessees. Evidence was let in on this point in the Select Committee. I crave your leave to refer to the evidence of Mr. Aiyar printed at Page 8. Mr. Aiyar said:

> "Our own experience of the Excess Profits Tax Investigation during the War showed that it might even be a very good plan for us to leave this matter to be settled in the initial stages by the Central Board of Revenue, because what we found was that the Central Board of Revenue was much more generous than an appellate authority or a Tribunal of the High Court might have been."

Therefore here is the authority of an Auditor who has very large income-tax practice to his credit, and he says that in the matter of assessing taxes, the Central Board of Revenue has been more generous than the Appellate Tribunal could have been expected to be. In the initial stages of this law, it is far better to have the Central Board of Revenue as the appellate authority rather than an Appellate Tribunal. The Tribunal will very often be compelled to say "Though we sympathise with the assessee in this case, still we are unable to afford relief to the assessee because we are bound by the law as it stands," whereas, the Central Board of Revenue can say: "Even though the law has got that interpretation, we feel that in the special and difficult circumstances of this case, we may allow a certain amount of relief to the assessee." Therefore, it is far better to have the Central Board of Revenue as the appellate authority than an Appellate Tribunal.

Dr. M. M. Das: Will there not be favouritism and nepotism?

Shri Venkataraman: If there can be favouritism and nepotism in the Central Board of Revenue, it can as well be there in an Appellate Tribunal.

Dr. M. M. Das: That is a law Court, a Court of justice.

Shri Venkataraman: Human nature being what it is, it does not matter whether "A" is a Member of the Central Board of Revenue, or "A" is a Member of the Appellate Tribunal. We have to treat bad eggs as bad eggs wherever they may be.

Dr. M. M. Das: Even from the Supreme Court we cannot hope to get justice according to you,

Shri Venkataraman: I will stick to my view, and I am quite sure that the House will also agree with me that

a bad man may be found not only in the Central Board of Revenue, but also in the Appellate Tribunal or any other authority. But if you assume, as you ought to assume, that normally people will be honest, then you have to judge which is the better authority. Assuming that the Central Board of Revenue has normal, reasonable, just and honest gentlemen and assuming that you have reasonable and honest gentleman in the Appellate Tribunal. which of the two would an assessee prefer, which of the two would you recommend, is the question. Now, even on equal premises that both are honest, I say it is more advantageous to the assessee to go to the Central Board of Revenue because they will be able to look into the equities of the case which the Appellate Tribunal will not be able to do as it is bound by the law.

Then, we are very often misled into believing that there should be separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary at all stages. The separation of powers between the executive and judiciary is all right at the top. There it has got to adjust the relative rights and claims of parties. But where you have got to administer things, it is not possible to introduce at every stage separation of powers. An administrative function like the levy and collection of tax can be more easily performed by a person who can look into the equities and circumstances than a person who merely looks into the law. I am not casting any slur or aspersion on any possible Appellate Tribunal. In fact, the Appellate Tribunal in income-tax has been working satisfactorily. But then you will also realise the limitation under which the Appellate Tribunal is working in income-tax, how they have themselves expressed in several cases that though they are in sympathy with the assessee and feel that some relief should be granted, they are unable to do so because of the provision of law as it stands. In the early stages of enforcement of a law which is being introduced for the first time in the country about which we do not have any precedents except those which prevail in other countries, it will be far better to have the Central Board of Revenue as the appellate authority than a separate Appellate Tribunal envisaged under the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal Act.

There is another matter on which there can be an honest difference of opinion, namely, second and subsequent death. Nobody can be dogmatic on this. Second and subsequent deaths are liable for assessment only after five years in some countries. In India we have made it f[illegible]

An Hon. Member: Three months.

Shri Venkataraman: Then at a graduated rate from one year onwards. The question is, what is best suited to our country? The question is not what has been done in other countries, because the legislatures of those countries in their collective wisdom applied the principle to the facts of their countries. They said in America 'Let it be five years; let the limit of exemption be 1 lakh dollars'. But there is no use trying to copy it in our country. What we should do should be based upon the circumstances in this country. In view of the fact that a minor of less than 18 years of age is not liable to tax under the 'Mitakshara' school, in view of the fact that a junior member of the family in a 'Dayabhaga' school is not liable to tax, in view of the fact that very few junior members in any family really have property in their own name and in their own right, I do not see why the limit should be fixed at five years. The present limit looks to be very fair and reasonable.

Shri C. D. Pande: The lesser the chance of death the greater the limit. What is the harm?

Shri Venkataraman: The harm is, we will lose revenue.

Shri C. D. Pande: That means the people will die, with greater frequency and thus his contention is wrong.

Shri Venkataraman: Further, the object of this Bill will not be carried out.

An Hon. Member: Certainly.

Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Mr. Venkataraman says that if a junior member in a 'Dayabhaga' family dies, then this charging clause will not apply. I want to remind him that a junior member, if he is a son or grandson, in that case the question will not arise. But if he is a co-parcener, say a brother's son, and is himself the owner and if he dies, the property will be liable to taxation. So the general term 'junior member', as he has applied is not applicable.

Shri Venkataraman: That is really the point. Is he or is he not in his own right an owner of property? If he is not an owner of property in his own right then he will not be taxed. If he is an owner of property in his own right, he would be taxed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): In both cases.

Shri Venkataraman: Both sides. In 'Mitakshara' and 'Dayabhaga' [illegible]

[Shri Venkataraman]

both cases, if he is an owner of property in his own right, he is liable to tax. (*Interruption*). My point is this. Let us take a family consisting of father and sons. Now, in the case of every death, there will not be any tax. Only in the case of the death of a person who owns property in his own name and in his own right, will the tax be levied. Considering the circumstances in this country, the fact that property in this country has escaped taxation for years and years, though the Taxation Inquiry Committee recommended as early as 1926 that death duties should be levied in this country—though the Todhunter Committee had said that the so-called legal objections with regard to levy of tax on the 'Mitakshara' school were not tenable at all and said the very things that we have now in this Bill,—seeing that property in this country has escaped taxation, I do not see why a further exemption should be given, a further relief should be given. Therefore let us not water down, let us not whittle down this Bill. It represents a very fair measure of compromise between the several classes and shades of opinion in this country. There are people who want that the rate of taxation should be heavier, that the exemption limit should be lower and that the pace should be quicker; there are others who want to avoid the tax under all circumstances and introduce amendments which will nullify the whole Act. For instance, I will only refer to the dissenting Minute written by Mr. Kilachand. Now, if you calculate the total of all the exemptions that he wants, there will be no Bill at all. There should be no limit to the amount of charities. As for gifts, the limit of Rs. 1,500 should be increased. To what height? As high as the sky! In regard to life insurance policies, the limit of exemption should be increased from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 25,000. Then gifts for marriage should be extended to education of children also. Then residential house, whatever its value, should be exempted. Then Government securities should be exempt from tax—an unheard of proposition. Then new ventures should again be exempted from tax. The exemption limit under section 34 should be increased from 1 lakh to 1½ lakhs. He should have written only one sentence —'That this Bill be scrapped'. That is all it comes to.

So from different points of view, we have arrived at a very fair measure of compromise, and I think the Bill, as it stands, really will go a long way to satisfy the aspirations of the people of this country. I wholeheartedly support it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

Prof D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): May I know, Sir, whether there is any time-limit for speeches?

Shri C. D. Pande: 30 minutes each.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Five days have been fixed for consideration. I have already received chits from as many as 16 Members which I have noted down. As the day progresses this number will increase.

Shri C. D. Pande: I do not know where I stand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yesterday we spent an hour and a half over this.

Shri Dhulekar (Jhansi Distt.—South): Members who were Members of the Select Committee take all the time. They take the time of other people who have got to say something. They should be heard. If the Members of the Select Committee take all the time, other people will not get an opportunity of having their say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur): May I make a suggestion, Sir? Those Members who have taken part in the Select Committee may be given an opportunity only towards the close and not in the middle of the debate for the simple reason that they have had ample opportunity to go through the various provisions of the Bill and they can put forward their arguments only towards the close. Otherwise the time of those members who have had absolutely no chance will be taken up by them and they will not be able to express their views. I would request the Deputy-Speaker to make some allowance or some concession in the case of those persons who have not had an opportunity to say anything with regard to this Bill.

Shri Dhulekar: Their opinion is already before us in printed form. We have read them. My predecessor who talked just now said everything, what is in the Bill, what happened in the Select Committee and all that. You have heard everything. It is all in print; we know it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree.

Shri Dhulekar: I request that we shall be given a chance to say something; otherwise, it will be that we pay the taxes and they only will talk.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Prof D. C. Sharma: May I submit, Sir, that even before the Bill was sent

to the Select Committee, there were so many persons who did not get an opportunity to speak. The same persons are speaking now. It is like shows where we have got the same heroes and heroines.

Shri C. D. Pande: Sir, I am one of those unfortunate Members who sat in the Select Committee. I was barred from speaking at the time it was discussed before being sent to the Select Committee and now I am being barred because I was in the Select Committee. I have submitted a minute of dissent. I will have no occasion to substantiate my viewpoint if I am debarred on this ground.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we to spend the whole day in hearing what I ought to do regarding fixing of time and regulating speeches?

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Whatever may happen, Sir, Mr. Namdhari should be given a chance first.

Shri Namdhari (Fazilka-Sirsa): My submission is this, Sir, that the hon. Members who were in the Select Committee—25 or 30 of them—have certainly had their say in the matter. Now, we will hear the 500 Members here. New things may crop up and they may be given a chance. The Members of the Select Committee may be given a chance after hearing the others who were not Members of the Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me first of all fix up the time limit; then the order in which I shall call the hon. Members and give opportunity to all of them. Now, at this rate, I think only a few people can speak. Therefore, ordinarily, no Members shall take more than 15 minutes. (*Interruption*). Order, order. Why is the hon. Member impatient? Let him hear me. In the case of a spokesman of any particular party, he may be given 20 to 25 minutes at the most.

Shri Sarmah (Goalghat—Jorhat): How many parties are there, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should the hon. Member know how many parties there are here?

Shri Sarmah: Is there also any, one-man party?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will find out whether there is any one-man party.

Now, as regards calling of Members, hon. Members who were in the Select Committee were not allowed a chance in the earlier debate on the Bill. We avoided it. But those people who have sent in their minutes of dissent, particularly they, must impress upon the House why in view of all that has happened in the Select Committee they were not able to get through with their viewpoints. They must be able to explain. I do not mean to say that every one of them must be allowed the opportunity. Otherwise, just as Mr. Venkataraman said, they can go through the general scheme of the Bill. It is not every one who is able to go through every portion of it. One must be able to say about the general scheme of the Act how many things have been considered and all that. I shall give a chance at the present moment to those who were not on the Select Committee or who had no chance of speaking earlier. I shall try as far as possible to distribute, but hon. Members will also bear in mind that all the 500 Members cannot be called.

Shri Sarmah: What is the procedure to be followed, Sir; is it that we should catch your eye?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will have to catch my eye.

Shri Dhulekar: I shall request you to give me some time, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Many hon. Members have already sent in chits. I am not going by them. But, hon. Members will kindly rise in their seats. I will try to distribute the time as far as possible. But, if any hon. Member fails to get an opportunity and he feels that he has some new point which the other hon. Members have not placed before the House, he will kindly tell me. I will try to give him some time. The hon. Finance Minister would certainly like to know the various viewpoints.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): We should not be very mechanical in this matter. Select Committee Members or non-Select Committee Members, they should all be given a chance. There should be a correct appraisal of the quality of the contribution which hon. Members can make to the subject. They should not be barred because they have been Members of the Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree that Members of the Select Committee should not be barred. All hon. Members would see later on that there are a number of points, particularly of law and a number of precedents have to be looked into. There are also other points such as how far exemptions ought to be given and so on. Therefore, I shall try to give an opportunity to all Members as far as possible, within the time allowed so as to place before the House all the various viewpoints.

Shri Dhulekar: Are we sitting for five days now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will stand adjourned tomorrow. Two and a half days now and two and a half days when we meet again we will discuss this. We cannot start afresh again and say 5 more days.

Hon. Members will kindly bear in mind the time limit.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : जनाब डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मैं उन खुशकिस्मत आदमियों में से नहीं हूं जोकि सेलेक्ट कमेटी में थे और जिन्होंने वहां पर अपना कन्ट्रीब्यूशन (contribution) किया । लेकिन ताहम मैं जरूरी समझता हूं कि इस ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी बिल (Estate Duty Bill) से मुताल्लिक वाक्यात पर जो मेरा ख्याल है उसे ज़ाहिर करूं ।

जनाब वाला, यह बिल तकरीबन छ: साल से लटकता आ रहा है और इसके बनाने में सरकार को बहुत सी दिक्कतें पेश आईं । सबसे अव्वल सवाल जो दिक्कत तलब था जिसकी वजह से जो पहली टैक्सेशन एन्क्वायरी कमेटी (Taxation Enquiry Committee) बैठी थी, बावजूद उसकी इस राय के होने के कि कोई एक्ट हिन्दुस्तान में बनाया जाय जिससे कि कोइ डथ ड्यूटी (Death Duty) लगाई जा सके, उसके रास्ते में जो दिक्कत थी वह यह थी कि जो हिन्दू ला के प्रिंसिपल थे वह उसके रास्ते में रुकावट थे । सर्वाइवरशिप (Survivorship) का प्रिंसिपल तो ऐसा था जिसकी वजह से हिन्दू ज्वाइन्ट फ़ैमिली में मौत से जायदाद पर कभी कोई फ़र्क नहीं पड़ता था । मौत कोई ऐसी वजह नहीं ख्याल की जाती थी जिसकी वजह से जायदाद के डिस्पोजल में, या जायदाद की पासिंग अवे (Passing away) में कोई फ़र्क पड़ता हो । यह सब से बड़ी दिक्कत थी और इसकी वजह से जब हाउस में पिछली दफ़ा यह बिल आया तब यह इन्तज़ार किया गया कि जब हिन्दू कोड बिल पास हो जाय उसके बाद इसको लाया जाय । यह दिक्कत हमेशा रही है । अब गवर्नमेंट ने जिस तरह से यह दिक्कत तय की है, पहले भी उसी तरीके से यह तय हो सकती थी । इस दिक्कत के हल करने के उसूल में न कभी कोई फ़र्क पड़ा है न पहले पड़ सकता था । मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि जहां तक हिन्दू ला के प्रिंसिपल का सवाल है वहां तक यह दिक्कत आज भी मौजूद है और हमेशा रहेगी । मिताक्षर ला का जो सबसे बड़ा सर्वाइवरशिप का प्रिंसिपल है उसमें मैं नहीं जाना चाहता । किसी भी वक्त कोई क़ानून नया बनाया जा सकता है जिसकी रू से यह क़रार दिया जाय कि किसी शख्स के मरने पर उसकी जायदाद को डिस्पोज़ किया जा सकता है । इसको arbitrarily नाफ़िज़ किया जा सकता है । मेरी राय में जो लोग यह दुहाई देते हैं कि इसमें मिताक्षर फ़ैमिली की फ़ायदा है और दायभाग फमिली को नुक्सान है वह दरअस्ल ग़लती करते हैं । अगर हक़ीकत में हिन्दू ला को देखा जाय तो किसी ज्वाइन्ट फ़ैमिली पर मिताक्षर ला म एस्टट ड्यूटी और डैथ ड्यूटी दोनों ही नहीं आयद हो सकती ।

पुराने ज़माने में जो हिन्दू ज्वाइंट फमिली थी उसके क्या फ़ायदे थे और क्या नक्सान थे, आज उन चीज़ों में जाने से कोई फ़ायदा नहीं है । आज हमको इस चीज़ को प्रेक्टिकल पाइंट आफ़ व्यू (Practical point of view) से देखना चाहिए और इस झगड़े में नहीं पड़ना चाहिए । मैं इस नुक्ते ख्याल से निहायत अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि तक़रीबन पिछले ८० सालों में ज्वाइंट हिन्दू फ़ैमिली के साथ सख्त बइन्साफ़ी होती रही ह । इनकम टक्स ला को इस तरह से लगाया गया कि ज्वाइन्ट हिन्दू फ़ैमिली को नुक्सान रहा है । उन

पर नाजायज तौर पर टैक्स लगाया गया है। गवर्नमेंट चाहती थी कि टैक्स वसूल किया जाय इसलिए ऐसा किया गया। जो ऐग्जेम्पशन लिमिट (exemption limit) दूसरे लोगों को हासिल थी वह ज्वाइंट हिन्दू फ़ैमिली को हासिल नहीं थी। लेकिन आज उस उसूल में जाने से कोई फ़ायदा नहीं है। आज हमको एक मामले को देखना चाहिए और वह यह है कि हम यह चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो वैलफ़ेयर स्टेट (Welfare State) बनने जा रही है उसका खजाना भरा रहे। रोज हम शिकायत करते हैं कि फ़लां जगह अस्पताल नहीं है, फ़लां जगह स्कूल नहीं है, फ़लां जगह फ़लां चीज नहीं है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि अगर आप ज्वाइंट हिन्दू फ़ैमिली के प्रिंसिपल को देखेंगे तो रुपया कहां से आवेगा। प्रैक्टिकल बात यह है कि आप यह चाहते हैं जो तबक़े अच्छी तरह से टैक्स दे सकते हैं उन पर दूसरे तबक़ों के फ़ायदे के वास्ते टैक्स लगाया जाय और उस रुपये को उन तबक़ों के फ़ायदे के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाय। तो हमको और सब चीज़ों को छोड़ देना चाहिए। मैं तो इस प्रेक्टिकल नुक्ते-निगाह से इस बिल के हक़ में हूं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि मिताक्षर फ़ैमिली में सर्वाइवर-शिप आती है या नहीं। मैं तो इस उसूल को समझता हूं कि ऐसे लोगों से लिया जाय जो कि देने के क़ाबिल हैं और यह रुपया देश के वास्ते इस्तेमाल होगा। इस वास्ते इतना ही नहीं है कि मैं इसको सपोर्ट करता हूं बल्कि मैं तो यह कहता हूं कि इसके बिना कोई और चारा ही नहीं है। हमें यह मानना पड़ेगा कि यह जो एस्टेट ड्यूटी बिल हम लाये हैं इसको हम पास करें और खुशी से पास करें।

इसके अलावा दूसरी शिकायत जो हाउस में की गयी है वह यह है कि इस में मिताक्षर हिन्दू फ़ैमिली को तो फ़ायदा होगा और दायभाग वालों को नुक्सान होगा। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मैं हिन्दू ज्वाइंट फ़ैमिली के इनकम टैक्स के बारे में बहुत दिनों तक सरकार की खिदमत में बातें पेश करता रहा हूं और लड़ता रहा हूं। लेकिन मैं इस वास्ते नहीं लड़ता रहा हूं कि किसी हिन्दू को या किसी ज्वाइंट हिन्दू फ़ैमिली को फ़ायदा पहुंचे। मैं तो यह चाहता हूं कि मेरे देश की टैक्सेशन पालिसी (Taxation Policy) इतनी जस्ट (Just) हो कि वह किसी हिन्दू और गैर हिन्दू में कोई तमीज न करे। मैं मिताक्षर और नानमिताक्षर फ़ैमिली में कोई फ़र्क नहीं करता। मैं तो यह चाहता हूं कि जिस उसूल के मुताबिक मरने पर जो चीज पास होती है उस उसूल को सब के साथ यकसां रखें और जो लाजीकल चीज हो उस पर चलें। मेरे दोस्त वकटारमण ने इस पर बहस की है कि मिताक्षर और दायभाग फ़ैमिलीज में किसको क्या नुक्सान होगा और किसको क्या फ़ायदा होगा। मैं इस झगड़े में नहीं पड़ना चाहता और जान कर नहीं पड़ना चाहता क्योंकि जो उसूल हमने इस बिल में रखा है वह ठीक है। हमें यह नहीं देखना है कि किसको नुक्सान होगा और किसको फ़ायदा होगा। अगर यह जानने के लिए कि किस खानदान में किस तरह से मौतें होती हैं सेंसस (Census) लिया जाय तो यह नामुमकिन हो जायगा। मैं तो अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ हमने इस बिल में क़ायम किया है वह इस नुक्ते निगाह से दुरुस्त है। लेकिन जो आपने ५० हजार और ७५ हजार की अलग अलग लिमिट रखी है यह मुझे पसन्द नहीं है। मैं समझता हूं कि यह जो हमने ७५ हजार की लिमिट रखी है इसको हमें मान लेना चाहिए। अगर कोई शख्स किसी टैक्स से बच जाता है तो उसको और तरह से पूरा कीजिए लेकिन

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

मैं चाहता हूं कि सारे देश में एक ही लिमिट होनी चाहिए और वह लिमिट हर एक शख्स के लिए यकसां होनी चाहिए। यह नहीं होना चाहिए कि हम ५० हजार और ७५ हजार की अलग अलग लिमिट रखें। यह मैं मानता हूं कि अगर किसी को बेजा रियायत मिलती है तो उसको आप किसी दूसरे तरीके से दूर कर सकते हैं। लेकिन यह जो लिमिट है यह सबके साथ यकसां होनी चाहिए। बहुत से लोगों ने यह ऐतराज किया है कि यह लिमिट थोड़ी है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि अगर हम कोई बिल पास करना चाहते हैं और यह चाहते हैं कि इससे सरकारी खजाने में रुपया आये तो हमको ७५ हजार से ज्यादा लिमिट नहीं रखनी चाहिए। हमने देखा कि जो लोग पंजाब से आये हैं उनकी जायदाद का जो तखमीना किया गया उनमें से ९९ फ़ी सदी ३० हजार तक ही रहे। इसलिए इसमें शक नहीं है कि अगर यह ७५ हजार की लिमिट रखी जायगी तो इसमें दो तीन फ़ीसदी से ज्यादा लोग नहीं आयेंगे। अगर हम इस मद से दरअस्ल टैक्स लेना चाहते हैं तो हमको इससे ज्यादा लिमिट नहीं रखनी चाहिए और अगर इस लिमिट को बढ़ाना है तो बेहतर हो कि इस बिल को ही खत्म कर दिया जाए। यह ७५ हजार की लिमिट भी कुछ कम नहीं है। जैसा कि मैंने पहले कहा कि १६ हजार का और ऐग्जेम्प्शन और ७५ हजार का यह ऐग्जेम्प्शन मिलाकर करीब ९० हजार हो जाता है। इससे ज्यादा ऐग्जेम्प्शन नहीं होना चाहिए। इसको किसी भी तरह रखा जा सकता है। अगर प्रापर्टी में और ज्यादा ऐग्जेम्प्शन दिया जायगा तो इसका मतलब यह होगा कि कुछ भी टैक्स वसूल नहीं होगा। कुछ लोग चाहते हैं कि १ लाख या डेढ़ लाख की रियायत दी जाए। लेकिन मैं इसको बहुत ज्यादा समझता हूं लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि यह जो गिफ्ट्स (gifts) की ढाई और डेढ़ हजार की लिमिट रखी गयी है इसको बढ़ा दिया जाए। चाहे ऐग्जेम्प्शन की लिमिट को ७५ हजार से घटा कर ७० हजार ही कर दिया जाए लेकिन इस लिमिट को कुछ बढ़ा दिया जाय। जिस वक्त आदमी मरता होता है उस वक्त वह कुछ लोगों को फ़ायदा पहुंचाना चाहता है। यह नेचुरल ख्वाहिश है। इसके लिए जो ढाई हजार और डेढ़ हजार की लिमिट है यह थोड़ी है। इसको बढ़ा दीजिए और दूसरी लिमिट को कम कर दीजिए। मैं ओवर आल फ़िगर को नहीं बढ़ाना चाहता। ऐसा करना तो इन्साफ़ नहीं होगा। मैं इस बात का हामी नहीं हूं कि मरते वक्त किसी आदमी को अपनी सारी जायदाद दे देने का अख्तियार दे दिया जाए। इससे अच्छा तो यह होगा कि इस बिल को ही खत्म कर दिया जाय। अगर आप चाहते हैं कि इस बिल से देश का फ़ायदा हो तो आप यही लिमिट रखिए लेकिन यह ढाई हजार और डेढ़ हजार की लिमिट कम है। यह लिमिट थोड़ी और ज्यादा होनी चाहिए बशर्ते कि आप उस ओवर आल लिमिट को न बढ़ावें।

इसके अलावा इस जिमन में कुछ और चीजें हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि दो तीन चीजें इस बिल में जरूर हों। एक तो मैं खुश हूं कि फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो वायदा किया था कंसीडरेशन स्टेज पर वह पूरा कर दिया और ७५ हजार की लिमिट रख दी। दूसरे मैं यह चाहता हूं कि जो आप इंसीडेंस (incidence) मुकर्रर करें वह बेजा न हो, इन्साफ़ के खिलाफ़ न हो। इसको हर साल न मुकर्रर किया जाय। कम से कम पहले

पांच साल के लिए मुकर्रर कर दिया जाय। पहले पांच सालों में इसको ज्यादा न किया जाय। उसके बाद अगर मुनासिब समझा जाय तो उसको आप हर साल रख सकते हैं लेकिन शुरू के पांच सालों में इसको एक सा ही रहने दें। वरना मुझे डर है कि जब भी रुपये की ज्यादा ज़रूरत होगी उस वक्त ज्यादा टैक्स वसूल कर लिया जायगा।

इस जिमन में मुझे यह भी कहना है कि मैं भी उन लोगों में हूं जिन्होंने पिछली मर्तबा यह अर्ज किया था कि रेजीडेंशियल हाउस (Residential House) को एग्जेम्प्ट रखा जाय। लेकिन इस बात पर पूरा गौर करने के बाद मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा कि अगर इस तरह की इजाज़त दी गई तो इसका इंसीडेंस बहुत मुश्किल होगा। किसी के पास बहुत बड़ा मकान होगा और किसी के पास बहुत छोटा। इस में अमीर आदमियों को ज्यादा ऐग्जेम्प्शन मिल जायगा। और किसी के पास मकान होगा ही नहीं। तो ऐसा करने से इनजस्टिस हो जायगी। इसलिये मैं ने अपनी पहली राय को तब्दील कर लिया है। लेकिन साथ ही मेरी यह राय है कि आप कुछ ऐसा इन्तजाम करें कि जिस वक्त यह टैक्स वसूल किया जाय तो ऐसी रियायत दी जाय कि किसी का रेजीडेंशियल हाउस बिकवाना न पड़े। रेजीडेंशियल हाउस के बिकने से लोगों को बहुत तकलीफ़ होगी। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि जहां तक वसूली का सवाल है आप कोई ऐसा उसूल कायम करें कि यह लोगों को कम से कम तकलीफ देह हो।

इसी के साथ मैं दो तीन और बातों की तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। सबसे अव्वल बात मशीनरी की है। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मैं वैसे सी० बी० आर० के खिलाफ नहीं हूं। इस बारे में जो वैंकटारमन साहब ने और दूसरे साहिबान ने कहा है मैं उस की कद्र करता हूं। मैं जानता हूं कि डेस्पाटिक रूल (Despotic Rule) और डिमाक्रेटिक रूल (Democratic Rule) इन दोनों में डेस्पाटिक रूल ज्यादा सिम्पथेटिक (Sympathetic) होता है। मैं जानता हूं कि सी० बी० आर० ज्यादा सिम्पेथेटिक होगा ताहम मैं अपीलेट कोर्ट को ज्यादा पसन्द करता हूं। मैं समझता हूं कि सी० बी० आर० का ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ज्यादा सिम्पथेटिक होगा लेकिन जहां तक जस्टिस का सवाल है अपीलेट ट्रिब्यूनल ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। जैसा कि इनकमटैक्स ट्रिब्यूनल है उसी तरह का यहां भी होना चाहिए। इस से हर शख्स को इत्मीनान होगा। इसके अलावा कोर्ट को तो सिर्फ जस्टिस करने से वास्ता होगा उसको इससे वास्ता नहीं होगा कि सरकार के खजाने में रुपया जाता है या नहीं, जो चीज़ कि सी० बी० आर० में नहीं हो सकती अगर ट्रिब्यूनल क़ायम किया जायगा तो लोगों को यह उम्मीद होगी कि हमारे साथ इन्साफ होगा। अगर ऐसा नहीं होगा तो इस वक्त जब आप एक नया कानून ला रहे हैं लोगों को बहुत तकलीफ होगी।

इस वास्ते मेरी नाक़िस राय में यह ज़रूरी है कि अपीलैंट ट्रिब्यूनल एक इंडिपेंडेंट ट्रिब्यूनल क़ायम हो। इसमें खुद सरकार का फायदा है और पब्लिक का भी फायदा है। पब्लिक साइकालोजिकली इस चीज़ से ज्यादा मुतमईन है कि उसके साथ हार्ड और फास्ट जस्टिस हो और जो अनरिलैंटिंग जस्टिस (Unrelenting Justice) होती है उसको पब्लिक ज्यादा पसन्द करती है बमुक़ाबले इसके कि किसी सूरत में किसी के साथ मुरव्वत ज़ाहिर कर दी जाय और दूसरी सूरत में सिम्पैथी ज़ाहिर न करे। इसलिये मैं अर्ज

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

करना चाहता हूं कि जो अदालतों की जस्टिस है वह ज़्यादा फायदेमन्द है बजाय इसके उसमें कोई और कनसीडरेशन्स हों । इसलिये अपीलैट ट्रिब्यूनल होना ज़रूरी है ।

मैं अभी जनाब की खिदमत में एक बात अर्ज कर रहा था कि जहां तक घरों का सवाल है हमारे मुल्क में ऐसे आदमी बहुत थोड़े होते हैं जिन के पास हार्ड कैश (Hard Cash) होता है या जो अमीर होते हैं। हम लोग दूसरे और मुल्कों के मुक़ाबिले में निहायत ही ग़रीब हैं। तो हम इस क़ानून को पसन्द तो करते हैं लेकिन मैं जानता हूं कि बहुत से केसेज होंगे कि कोई शख्स मरेगा तो सरकार का आदमी वहां जायगा और वह इस बिल के मातहत ड्यूटी मांगेगा पर उसके पास देने के लिए रुपया नहीं होगा। तो उस आदमी का मकान नीलाम होगा । मैं इस मकान के नीलाम होने के बहुत बरखिलाफ़ हूं । मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार एक ऐसा अलग इंस्टीट्यूशन बनाये जो लोगों की जायदाद को इसमें ले सके और एक अरसे दराज तक इस टैक्स की वसूली करे। जैसा आप को मालूम है आठ साल की मीआद रखी गयी है तो इसमें इंस्टालमेंट (instalment) मुक़र्रर किया जाय। जहां तक हो सके मौक़ा दिया जाये कि रैजीडेंशियल हाउसेज का नीलाम न हो बल्कि कुछ अर्से तक किराया वग़ैरह पर दे कर उनको क़ायम रखा जाय । अगर किसी के पास जायदाद इस क़िस्म की है कि जिस को वह चाहता है कि सरकार ले ले तो सरकार जो क़ीमत मुक़र्रर करती है और जो उम मकान को लेना चाहती है तो सरकार को इस बिल का एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन इस तरह से करना चाहिए कि जिससे लोगों को कम से कम तकलीफ़ हो। तो मैं जनाब की खिदमत म अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि एक तो यह होना चाहिए कि रैजीडेंशियल हाउस उसी सूरत में बिकना चाहिए जब उसका बिकना इनऐस्केपेबल (inescapable) हो जाय । मैं नहीं चाहता कि उसका मकान हर सूरत में छूट जाय या सरकार की टैक्स वसूली न हो। लेकिन यह ज़रूर चाहता हूं कि इस तरह से इस ऐक्ट का ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन हो कि लोगों को घर से निकलने की तकलीफ़ न बरदाश्त करनी पड़े ।

मैं जनाब की इजाज़त से एक और बात की तरफ तवज्जह दिलाना चाहता हूं । यह एक अजीब तरह का टैक्स है । इस तरह का टैक्स आज तक हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं लगा था । मैं चाहता हूं कि इस टैक्स को पापुलैराइज (papularise) करने के वास्ते ज़रूरी है कि हम टैक्स से जो आमदनी हो उस को तालीम के मामले में खर्च करें । इस टैक्स से जो कुछ वसूली हो उसका २५ फीसदी तालीम पर खर्च हो । इस टैक्स से जो कुछ वसूली होगी उसका फायदा स्टेट्स उठायेंगी । तो उनके ऊपर यह पाबन्दी हो कि इसका २५ फीसदी वे प्राइमरी और सैकेंडरी ऐजूकेशन पर खर्च करें। यह जो रोज़मर्रा की आमदनी होती है और वह जो खर्च की जाती है उस तरह से यह आमदनी खर्च न की जाय। इस में २५ फीसदी प्राइमरी और सैकेंडरी ऐजूकेशन के लिए ईयरमार्क (earmark) कर दिया जाय । दूसरे इसके अलावा हम रोज़मर्रा सुनते हैं कि क़हत की हालत पैदा हो रही है । रोज स्टेट्स की दुहाई सुनते हैं कि फलां जगह फैमीन कंडीशन्स हैं। लोगों को खाने को कुछ नहीं मिलता । तो इसमें साढ़े बारह फीसदी अलग रख दिया जाय फैमीन और पावर्टी (poverty) को दूर करने के लिए और साढ़े बारह फीसदी फिर रखा जाय काऊ

प्रोटैक्शन (Cow Protection) के लिये। मैं अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि जब कोई शख्स मरता है तो मुझे सारे हिन्दुस्तान के बारे में तो नहीं मालूम लेकिन हमारे यहां कोई शख्स मरता है तो मरते वक्त वह दस बीस रुपया दान करता है कि जानवरों को कुछ खाने को दो और लोगों को जाकर मुफ्त रोटी तक़सीम करो। इसलिए मैं अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि इसको इस तरह से खर्च किया जाय और इस टैक्स की वसूली का इस तरह पर ताल्लुक रखा जाय, साढ़े बारह फीसदी कैटल प्रिजर्वेशन (cattle preservation) पर खास कर काऊ प्राटैक्शन पर खर्च होगा तो लोगों को एहसास होगा कि इसमें से इतना हिस्सा तो उसी चीज के लिए जा रहा है जिस पर कि हम खर्च करना चाहते थे। यह मैं नहीं जानता कि मरने वाला आदमी गोदान करने से वैतरणी को उसकी पूंछ पकड़ कर पार कर जाता है या नहीं लेकिन मैं जानता हूं कि गोदान की प्रथा हमारे यहां रायज है और हर एक आदमी मरते वक्त गोदान करना चाहता है। तो इस तरह से इस बिल का ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन होगा तो यह मेजर निहायत पापुलर होगा और लोग चाहेंगे कि हम सरकार को धोखा न दें। वह इस तरह की नियत नहीं रखेंगे कि सरकार के खजाने में रुपया न जाय और कोई आदमी मरेगा तो आपका इस तरह का इन्तजाम होगा तो बिना तकलीफ के सरकार को रुपया मिल जायगा। मरने वाले आदमी को इतमीनान होगा कि इतना हिस्सा तो ऐसी ही चीजों में खर्च किया जायगा जिन पर कि वह मरने वाला आदमी खुद खर्च करना चाहता था। तो इसके साथ में एक चीज यह और बढ़ा देनी चाहिये।

अगर मैंने ज्यादा वक्त नहीं लिया है तो मैं जनाब की खिदमत में दो एक बातें और अर्ज करना चाहता हूं और मैं दो तीन मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं लूंगा। एक तो यह है कि आपने इसमें तीन महीने की चीज रखी है। दूसरा कोई आदमी फैमिली में अगर तीन महीने के बाद मर जाय तो फिर दोबारा यह टैक्स लगेगा। एक वसूली तो आपकी पहली डैथ पर हो गई और तीन महीने बाद मरने पर फैमिली में दूसरी डैथ अगर हो जाय तो यह दोबारा वसूली होगी। एक तो फैमिली में दो दो जानें चली गईं यह कितनी तकलीफ़देह बात है और दूसरी तरफ़ सरकार का आदमी अपनी वसूली के लिए दोबारा हाजिर हो जाय। यह मैं समझता हूं ठीक नहीं है। इस सिलसिले में एक तो पहली वसूली चल ही रही होगी और फिर यह दूसरी वसूली शुरू हो जाय तो यह दो दो वसूली एक साथ होना ना मुनासिब होगा। इससे लोगों को बहुत तकलीफ़ होगी। इसलिए यह प्रावीजन (provision) किया जाय कि ५ वर्ष तक कोई और वसूली न की जाय। यह फेयर और जस्ट है और इसको मान लेना चाहिए। अगर नहीं माना गया तो आखिर जिसको कफन फाड़ कानून कहा जाता है वैसी हालत होगी और इससे लोगों में यह क़ानून अनपापुलर भी होगा। अव्वल तो मैं अर्ज़ करता हूं कि टैक्स देना कोई पसन्द नहीं करता। हम यहां टैक्स देना जायज कहते हैं लेकिन लोग, हम बाहर जावेंगे तो कहेंगे कि तुमने तो जाकर यह टैक्स और लगवा दिया। तो लोगों को यह पसन्द नहीं आयगा। लेकिन साथ ही हम इससे निकल नहीं सकते हमारे पास इसके सिवा कोई और चारा नहीं है। रोज रोज हम देखते हैं कि सरकार के खर्चे बढ़ते जा रहे हैं हम रोजमर्रा सरकार से मांग पेश करते हैं कि इस चीज को पूरा नहीं किया। जब हम देखते हैं कि ऐसी सूरत है तो कोई वजह नहीं मालूम होती कि सरकार ऐसे आदमी से यह टैक्स वसूल न करे जोकि इसको आसानी से दे सकता है। फिर इसके अन्दर जो स्लेब

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

सिस्टम (slab system) रखा गया है कि ज्यादा मालदार आदमी ज्यादा टैक्स देगा तो यह ठीक ही है। लेकिन इसके साथ ही सक्सैशन ड्यूटी (Succession Duty) का जो प्वाइंट हैवह भी साथ में देखना चाहिए था। सक्सशन ड्यूटी का जो इनसीडेंस पड़ता है वह एक तरह से सहल इक्वीटेबल (equitable) और जस्ट होता है। इस के अन्दर एक आदमी अगर पांच छः वारिस छोड़ गया तो यह भी आपको देखना था कि उनके हिस्से में क्या आवेगा। अगर दस दस या पांच पांच हजार एक एक के हिस्से में आये और सरकार ने भी दो दो तीन तीन हजार ले लिये तो जो सक्सैर्स हैं वह बहुत तकलीफ़ महसूस करेंगे। तो इस तरह से इसको देखा जाय तो यह हार्ड है। लेकिन हाउस ने ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी बिल का फ़ैसला कर लिया है तो मैं समझता हूं कि अब इस में ज्यादा कुछ अर्ज़ करने की जरूरत नहीं है कि सक्सैशन ड्यूटी हो जाय या ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी रहे।

इस बिल के और बहुत से प्रावीजन्स हैं मैं उनके डिटेल (detail) में नहीं जाना चाहता। लेकिन जनाब की इजाजत से एक चीज जरूर अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं। आज इनकम टैक्स बिल में एक चीज है कि जिसके लिए ऐग्जेम्प्शन रखा गया उस पर इनकम टैक्स नहीं लिया जायगा लेकिन रेट्स के लिए जो इग्जेम्पशन की चीज होगी वह शामिल की जायगी। यही चीज इसमें भी रखी गयी है। मैं जानता हूं कि यह चीज इनकम टैक्स ऐक्ट में रखी हुई है और बहुत दिनों से चली आ रही है लेकिन यह लाजिकल तो है नहीं। जब किसी चीज पर टैक्स नहीं लगता तो उसको रेट के वास्ते शामिल करना दुरुस्त नहीं है गो कि आमदनी के लिहाज से वह दुरुस्त हो। इनकम टैक्स में यह चीज है और यहां भी अब इसको शामिल किया गया है। लेकिन मैं अदब से अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि आप इस पर फिर ग़ौर करें। अगर उसको आप ऐग्जेम्प्शन देते हैं तो उसको रेट्स के लिए शामिल करना मुनासिब नहीं है। इसको इनकम टैक्स के लिए भी नहीं रखना चाहिए।

तो बाक़ी जो और बातें हैं उनके ऊपर जब उनके प्रावीजन्स आवेंगे तब बोलूंगा। लेकिन इस वक्त तो मैं इस बिल का खैर मुकदम करता हूं और इसको बहुत जोर से सपोर्ट करता हूं क्योंकि मैं समझता हूं कि इसके बिना कोई और चारा नहीं है।

अब मैं इसके डिटेल में जो प्रावीजन्स हैं उन पर उस समय कहूंगा जब इसके प्रावीजन्स वग़ैरह विचार के लिए आवेंगे। इस वक्त तो मैं यही अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि मैं इस बिल को सपोर्ट करता हूं। हमारे सामने दो ही सवाल हैं कि जब तक हमारी वैलफेयर स्टेट के खजाने पुर न हो जायें कि जिससे वह अपनी रिसपोंसिबिलिटीज को पूरी तरह अंजाम दे सके जोकि उस पर आयद हैं और जिनके बारे में हम रोज उसको याद दिलाते हैं तब तक काम नहीं चल सकता। तो या तो हम इसके खजाने को पूरा करें या यह कहना छोड़ दें कि वह अपनी जिम्मेवारी को पूरा करे। इस वास्ते मैं इस टैक्स को तो सपोर्ट करता हूं लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि जिन बातों पर मैंने अर्ज़ किया है उन पर ग़ौर कर लिया जाय।

Shri Dhulekar: I wish to draw the attention of the House only to two or three salient points in the Bill. The first is that as long as the minimum limit for taxation is small there will be more cases of evasion. I submit that it is very important that the ordinary common man and especially the middle class man should normally be honest. Every man, every officer of Government who gets a thousand

rupees or two, every lawyer, every doctor who earns a thousand rupees or two per month is expected to leave more than about Rs. 75,000. If you fix the limit at Rs. 75,000, you would make these normally honest people normally dishonest persons, always thinking about their property, always making calculations, whether they should evade the law or not, whether his sons will be provided for, whether his daughters will be married in proper houses, whether the house which he builds for his family will also be included in his property. Whatever the considerations may be, I would submit that the normally honest man should not be converted into a normally dishonest man. I would say with all the force at my command that if you want that the Indian people should be honest people as they were an honest people and as they are, and that in the future also our progeny may say that we are the descendants of Harischandra, then I would certainly request the House to consider this proposition from a different point of view.

It is not like Income-tax where a man can try to show that he has earned less than what he has got. In regard to Income-tax rich persons try to keep back accounts and try to lower their income, and they may do anything. But this is not like Income-tax. This estate duty will be a sword of Damocles hanging over all people. There is for instance the question of residential house. What do our people want? Should they not build good houses in the towns? I would submit that an ordinary bungalow at Delhi costs not less than a lakh of rupees. Suppose that bungalow is to be sold. Every man is under fear. If he builds a good house or purchases a motor car or has an insurance fund for his children, has something for his sons and daughters —say, two or four thousand rupees per girl for marriage—the man is lost. You say that all this passes to the State under the Estate Duty Bill and is leviable to estate duty. What I lay so much emphasis on this fact is that that law which places people under a perpetual fear is not good.

Although it may be very correct according to all your arguments, all your *shastras*, all your principles, if it is against the common man, *lok virod*, do not do it. *(Interruption)*. An hon. friend says "you are not a rich man". I say I am not a rich man. I am a born Brahman. My fore-fathers had never seen lakhs of rupees, the following generations will not have them either. I should place before this House the great legacy that the Indian people have got. And what is that great legacy?—Honesty and truth. So kindly do not put us under a perpetual fear of taxation. I would plead with all the force at my command before the hon. the Finance Minister and before this House, kindly raise the minimum limit so that the ordinary man, the common man who cannot earn lakhs of rupees may at least be free from fear. (*An Hon. Member*: What is the limit?) You may put anything, two lakhs or three lakhs. But raise it. When the time for amendment comes I shall place my views in this respect. But kindly take this into consideration.

The next thing I wish to emphasise in this Estate Duty Bill is this. So far as our Hindu Law is concerned, that is Mitakshara and Dayabhaga and all that, people say we are disturbing that law. I say no. Our law has been disturbed by so many Smritis. And the Smritis were never promulgated or enacted by any Parliament. Great men came up, they were respectable people, they wrote the Smritis, and crores of people followed them, and they have been following them, for thousands of years. Here we are five hundred people elected by the whole of India. If five hundred people elected by the people of India cannot disturb Hindu law, imagine that only one man, Yagnavalkaya or Narada or others who gave the Smritis, could disturb Hindu law. (*An Hon. Member*: Because of the greatness of the man). And compare the greatness of this House. So why should people be afraid that our Hindu law is being disturbed by so many people?

Shri Nand Lal Sharma (Sikar): Because many of them have scanty knowledge of the shastras.

Shri Dhulekar: I can compare them with the greatest of Hindus in the learning of shastras and I would request the Ram Rajya Parishad people, —I give them a challenge, let them hold any shastra discourse anywhere in Delhi and I am prepared to face them. I am not just a public man, I am a learned man too.

I say that all these objections about disturbing the Hindu law are baseless. People go all about the place and say: the Hindu Code Bill is being passed, this thing is being done, the Special Marriage Bill is being passed and so on. I should remind my friends, the Ram Rajya Parishad people that they should know that there was a time in Hindu law when there was no system of marriage. My friend should read Vyas. In Mahabharata it is stated that there was a period when there was no marriage. People were living freely. It is only a creation of a latter period. (*An Hon. Member*: That seems to be a happy period!)

[Shri Dhulekar]

Then the third thing that I wish to place before this House is this, that there should be no disturbance of the family at a time when death occurs. There should be some provision that normally there should be a list—although we may have to spend some money, but I would request that a machinery should be set up. A list of persons in the towns should be kept for this purpose to show that these are the persons who are likely to pay estate duty.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): And wish and pray for their death.

Shri Dhulekar: If that list is there, it is only those people who are in the list who should be touched. Normally, ordinary people, who are on the border point of taxation should not be touched. As soon as a death occurs in a family, people come on the 4th or 5th day to make a list of all the people. In every town people know who possess properties which are worth taxing. Therefore I request the hon. Finance Minister that when he creates this Board, there should be a machinery which should confidentially keep a list of those persons in the locality and those persons may be taxed if necessary. That would avoid much litigation, that would avoid much disturbance to the people and that will also help the Government to remain as popular as we are. Legislations are meant for human beings; human beings are not meant for legislation. The people of India want legislation but they cannot be made slaves of legislation. They should feel that normally or ordinarily people die in peace and they can die in peace.

As regards public charities also, I would submit that normally there should be no limit. A case occurred only three or four days ago. People who were travelling did not know that they were going to die at the next moment. Suppose they had made any gifts to public charities or to relatives. How can you say that those people were trying to evade?

Dr. N. B. Khare: Suppose they die in a plane accident?

Shri Dhulekar: How can you say that those people who lost their lives in an aeroplane disaster were going to evade? I would certainly submit that there should be something in the Act to show that if any person dies by accident or by other circumstances—there may be hundreds of circumstances—which prove that the person who died had no knowledge of his coming death, then certainly gifts to public charities or to relatives should be normally considered as *bona fide* gifts. So many persons are employed in the Railway, in military departments, etc. So many people are going outside India. We see people everyday going to Washington, going to America, going to Indonesia and when the Air Corporations are in full swing, you will find that thousands of people will be going out and in the case of those people, to say that the period should be one year or two years is not proper. There should be some provision to exempt these accidental deaths. Some provision should be there that if the death is by accident, this provision of one year or two years should not apply to such cases. So a proper amendment may be made for this purpose.

These are my submissions. I would not take any more time of the House.

श्री वी० जी० देशपांडे (गुना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी पूर्ववक्ता के हिन्दू शास्त्रों के ज्ञान को देखकर तो मैं चकित हो गया हूं। अंकगणित और तर्कशास्त्र इन दो शास्त्रों के कांग्रेस के सदस्य साधारणतया विरुद्ध होते हैं। मेरी समझ में पांच सौ पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य या पांच सौ धुलेकर मिलकर एक याज्ञवल्क्य या मनु नहीं बन सकते। मुझे याद है कि महाराष्ट्र के एक नेता थे उन से किसी ने कहा कि एक लड़की की शादी करनी है और उनको एक २४ साल का वर लाने के लिए भेजा। उन महाशय ने क्या किया कि बारह-बारह साल के दो लड़के ले आये उस लड़की के साथ शादी करने के लिए। इसी तरह से मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि याज्ञवल्क्य और मनु के जो नियम हैं उनको बदलने के लिए यहां पांच सौ सदस्य बैठे हैं लेकिन "वन जीनिअस कैन नाट बी कम्पेन्सेटेड बाई १०० मीडिओकर्स"। मैं पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों का अपमान करने के विचार से यह नहीं कह रहा हूं, वह प्रतिभाशाली सदस्य हैं लेकिन इसलिए हम पांच सौ सदस्य हिन्दुओं के क़ानून को बदलना चाहें, इसके मैं विरुद्ध हूं।

11 A.M.

पहली बात यह है कि जब यह विधेयक संदन के सामने रखा गया था उस समय हम

को बतलाया गया था कि इस देश में सम्पत्ति का केन्द्रीकरण हो रहा है, सम्पत्ति एक जगह बहुत आ रही है, इसलिए उस सम्पत्ति का विकेन्द्रीकरण करने के लिए यह विधेयक लाया जा रहा है। इसके पश्चात् प्रवर समिति में ३०-३५ सदस्य एकत्र हुए। बहुत दिन वहां बैठने के बाद यह विधेयक आया है, और मैं बहुत सूक्ष्मता से अध्ययन कर रहा था कि किस तरह से सम्पत्ति का विकेन्द्रीकरण किया जा रहा है। यहां बताया गया था कि 'the Bill is an all out frontal attach on the private property.' यानी व्यक्तिगत सम्पत्ति के विरोध में यह बड़ी लड़ाई यहां हो रही है। मैं भी देखने लगा कि इस लड़ाई में, इस कुश्ती में कौन हारता है, कौन जीतता है। लेकिन उसी वक्त कुछ कांग्रेस के सदस्य कहने लगे कि इस में कम से कम एक लाख की सीमा रखी जानी चाहिए। एक मिताक्षर ला के मानने वाले के पास चार पांच लाख की जायदाद है, उसके पुत्र हैं, दो चार लड़कियां हैं, एक एक लड़की को पांच पांच हजार की डावरी (dowry) देनी है। तो इस प्रकार से लाख डेढ़ लाख रुपया तो यों ही निकल जायगा। उसके बाद जो सम्पत्ति थोड़ी बहुत क़ायम रही उसका बहुत महत्व तो होता नहीं। यहां हम देखते हैं कि सम्पत्ति के खिलाफ़ लड़ाई चल रही है। हमारे देश में असमानता बढ़ रही है यह कहकर सम्पत्ति के खिलाफ यहां लड़ाई शुरू हुई मैं पहले से ही जानता था कि इसमें ५० हजार की छूट है क्योंकि कांग्रेस तो पूंजीपतियों के बल पर इस देश में चल रही है। वह कभी सम्पत्ति के विरोध में लड़ाई करेगी यह मैं नहीं समझता था। कहा जाता है कि पचास हजार की मियाद तो रख दो, उसके ऊपर जो कुछ आयगा उस पर टैक्स लिया जायेगा। यहां यह प्रोपेगैन्डा चल रहा है। फिर पूछा गया कि इतना लेकर के कितना टैक्स आपको मिलने वाला है। कहा गया की पांच छः करोड़ रुपये मिलेंगे। ऐग्रीकल्चरल प्रापर्टी जो देश में बड़ी विशाल है उसके लिए आठ राज्यों ने सम्मति दी है कि ऐग्रीकल्चरल प्रापर्टी पर टैक्स लगाया जाय। बाकी राज्यों ने कभी सम्मति नहीं दी। जहां जहां बड़े जमींदार हैं वह राज्य इसमें शामिल हुए नहीं। इस प्रकार से यह सब कुछ होने के बाद पांच या छः करोड़ रुपये आपको मिलेंगे उससे आप क्या करने वाले हैं यह अभी तक मेरी समझ में ठीक से नहीं आया और प्रवर समिति की रिपोर्ट पढ़ने के पश्चात् भी मैं देखता हूं और मुझे शक है कि यह उनके ही हित में बुरी चीज है। हमारी सरकार पचास हजार की सीमा तक तो कर नहीं लेती है, लेकिन जब मनुस्मृति और याज्ञवल्क्य की विवाह संस्था का सवाल आता है तो हम को विवाह के खिलाफ सबूत देते हैं व्यास मुनि का, जिनका जन्म ही विवाह संस्था से नहीं हुआ था। व्यास मुनि का प्रमाण देकर क्या क्या बातें यहां कही गईं यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। बात यह है कि आजकल कुछ फैशन बन गया है हिन्दू धर्म पर आघात करने का। आज उन को हमारे धर्म और संस्कृति के खिलाफ बोलने में कोई हिचकिचाहट नहीं होती है। वह यह सोचते नहीं कि वह क्या कह रहे हैं। मेरा तो यह विरोध है। मैं तो कहता हूं कि अगर आपके सामने सम्पत्ति के विकेन्द्रीकरण का उद्देश्य होता तो आप इस प्रकार से काम न करते। मेरी समझ में तो आपको इस डेथ ड्यूटी (death duty) के बजाय सक्सेशन ड्यूटी (succession duty) लगानी चाहिए थी। तभी इस विकेन्द्रीकरण का प्रश्न हल हो सकता था। आप यहां पर हिन्दू शास्त्रों के विरुद्ध रोज बोलते हैं। मैं तो कहता हूं कि हमारे मिताक्षर ला ने इस देश में सम्पत्ति का विकेन्द्रीकरण

[श्री वी० जी० देशपांडे]

किया है । यहां बड़े बड़े उदाहरण दिये गये। वह कहते हैं कि तीन पीढ़ियों में सम्पत्ति खत्म हो जायेगी । लेकिन हमारे मिताक्षर ला में तो तीन पीढ़ियों तक जाने की भी जरूरत नहीं है । जैसे ही पुत्र होता है उसी समय से विभाजन हो सकता है । तीन पीढ़ियों तक तो सम्पत्ति रहेगी ही नहीं ।

इस बिल में जैसा कि यह सेलेक्ट कमेटी से आया है, हमारे देशमुख साहब ने भी बहुत अच्छे शब्दों में कहा था , बहुत धीरे से कहा है, लेकिन मान लिया है कि "इट इज गुड गाड्स गिफ्ट टू लायर्स" । यानी जो वकील लोग हैं उनके लिए भगवान बड़ा अच्छा है । उन को तो भगवान को इस चीज के लिए दुआ देना चाहिए उसने वकील लोगों को इस देश में अच्छी तरह रखा है । पहली बात तो यह है कि मिताक्षर ला को छोड़कर बाकी जो भी ला बनाये गये हैं वह बिल्कुल वकीलों के लिए बनाय गये हैं । जो कोई हिन्दू ज्वाइंट फैमिली में मरेगा तो उसके मरने के बाद यह झगड़ा शुरू होगा कि जो प्रापर्टी फैमिली में है वह मिताक्षर से नियंत्रित है या सेल्फ एक्वायर्ड (self acquired) सम्पत्ति है । क्योंकि इन दोनों में बड़ा फर्क पड़ता है । अगर किसी आदमी की दो लाख की सम्पत्ति हुई तो वह यह कह सकता है कि यह मिताक्षर की सम्पत्ति है । यह किसी भी सम्पत्ति के लिए कहा जा सकता है। क्योंकि उसके लिए एवीडेंस (evidence) क्रियेट (create) किया जा सकता है । इस तरह से पैसा तो ज्यादा आने वाला नहीं है परन्तु आप हिन्दू पद्धति पर आघात कर रहे हैं। मेरी तो यह समझ में आता है कि इससे बहुत सी उलझनें पैदा हो जायेंगी । बात यह है कि मरने के पूर्व हर एक आदमी का अपनी सम्पत्ति पर अधिकार होता है । किसी के पास से सम्पत्ति दूसरे के पास जाती नहीं। अगर आप सक्सेशन ड्यूटी लगाते हैं तो आप उस पर लगा सकते थे जिसको सम्पत्ति आती । ऐसा भी हो सकता है कि किसी परिवार में आठ-दस आदमी हों और उनके पास थोड़ी थोड़ी सम्पत्ति आती हो। तो आप इस पर भी कर लगा रहे हैं। अगर किसी की सम्पत्ति डेढ़ लाख की है और दस आदमियों को मिली तो एक एक को पन्द्रह पन्द्रह हजार मिलेगी। तो आप इस क़ानून द्वारा इस छोटी सी सम्पत्ति पर भी टैक्स लगाते हैं । मैं समझता हूं कि जिस प्रकार यह बिल प्रवर समिति से आया है यह प्रचार के लिए है । इससे सम्पत्ति का कोई विशेष विकेन्द्रीकरण नहीं होता जैसा कि आप प्रचार करना चाहते हैं । आपने ५० हजार और ७५ हजार की लिमिट रखी है । और मिताक्षर को भी इसमें डाल दिया है । मैं समझता हूं कि ऐसा करके आप कोई बड़ी लड़ाई नहीं लड़ रहे हैं पर अपने देश में आप उलझनें पैदा कर रहे हैं । जो चालाक आदमी हैं वह मिताक्षर के नाम पर कोई न कोई तरकीब करके इससे निकल जायेंगे और सबसे वकीलों की सम्पत्ति बढ़ती रहेगी। जो लोग सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट में प्रेक्टिस करते हैं उनके पास सम्पत्ति का केन्द्रीकरण होता चला आयगा । आप बड़ी बड़ी सम्पत्तियों पर कर लगाने की सोच रहे हैं और उसका विकेन्द्रीकरण करने की सोच रहे हैं लेकिन इसके बजाय देश में उलझनें पैदा होंगी, अनसरटेन्टी (uncertainty) और वेगनेस (vagueness) पैदा होगी और मरने वाले को भी शान्ति नहीं मिल पायेगी । वह सोचेगा कि मेरे मरने के बाद मेरे बच्चों की क्या हालत होगी । यही चीज़ आप इसके द्वारा पैदा कर रहे हैं । आगे चलकर मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि आप हर एक चीज़ में इस प्रकार से कम्पलीकेशन पैदा कर रहे हैं और मध्यम वर्ग की.....

श्री बोगावत (अहमद नगर—दक्षिण) : सुधार आप करें।

श्री वी० जी० देशपांडे : यदि आपकी सुधार करने ही की इच्छा होती तो आप इस प्रकार का बिल न लाते। विकेन्द्रीकरण का पक्ष लेकर के आप इस बिल को मध्यम वर्ग को तकलीफ देने को और धर्म पर लेक्चरबाजी करने को लाये हैं। बात यह है कि इस बिल से तरह तरह के कम्प्लीकेशन पैदा होने वाले हैं। इसमें कहा गया है कि अठारह साल का लड़का मर गया तो टैक्स लगे तो उस दुःख के समय उसके पिता को डेथ ड्यूटी देने की और फिक्र पड़ेगी।

आगे चलकर बहुत से लोगों ने कहा कि घरों को आप ऐग्जेम्प्ट करें। मैं जानता हूं कि घरों को इस में से निकालने से बहुत सा नुक़सान हो सकता है। बड़े बड़े शहरों में रहने वाले पूंजीपतियों के घरों को निकाल देने से शायद इस बिल में कुछ मिलेगा ही नहीं। मेरी तो राय में इस टैक्स में कुछ आने वाला नहीं है। कहा जाता है कि इसके १२$^{1}/_{2}$ फ़ी सदी से गोरक्षा की जायगी और दूसरे काम किये जायेंगे। लेकिन मैं तो समझता हूं कि इससे कुछ मिलने वाला नहीं है। जो लोग सीधे साधे हैं उनके रास्ते में इससे अड़चनें पैदा हो जायेंगी। आप इसमें कुछ ऐसा कर दें कि जो छोटे छोटे लोगों के रहने के घर हैं या जिनके पास घर को छोड़ कर और कोई सम्पत्ति नहीं है उनको छोड़ दिया जाय, और जो पूंजीपतियों के मकान हैं उनको इसमें ले लिया जाय। आप रेजीडेंशियल हाउस में और दूसरे मकानों में फर्क कर सकते हैं। आप जितनी बुद्धिमता मनु और याज्ञवल्क्य के विरुद्ध इस्तेमाल करते हैं अगर उसको इधर इस्तेमाल करें और उसका इधर उपयोग करें तो लोगों के रहने के घर, ऐसे लोगों के जिनके और ज्यादा सम्पत्ति नहीं है, ऐग्जेम्प्ट किये जा सकते हैं।

[SHRI PATASKAR *in the Chair*]

अभी ज्यादा समय नहीं गया है। आप इसमें परिवर्तन कर सकते हैं।

किसी ने ऐग्रीकल्चरल प्रोपर्टी के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा है। आज कल कृषि भूमि की प्राइसेज़ बहुत बढ़ गयी हैं। एक एक एकड़ जमीन का दाम एक एक हजार दो दो हज़ार हो गया है। अगर किसी के पास २५ एकड़ भूमि है तो उसका मूल्य ५० हजार हो जाता है। इसके बाद उस पर भी यह कर लगेगा और वह इससे बच नहीं सकेगा। मैं समझता हूं कि इस तरह के इकानामिक होल्डिंग्स (economic holdings) को भी इससे ऐग्जेम्प्ट कर देना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूं कि आज भी कोई बहुत वक्त नहीं गया है। इस पर सिलेक्ट कमेटी दुबारा बैठ सकती है। अगर इस बिल को इसी प्रकार से चलाया जायगा तो इस प्रकार की प्रापर्टी को बहुत नुक़सान होगा। जो बड़े बड़े जमींदार और पूंजीपति हैं वह अपनी प्रापर्टी को बचा लेंगे और छोटे लोगों को नुक़सान होगा। मैं समझता हूं कि हमको इंग्लैण्ड और अमरीका के पीछे नहीं चलना चाहिए यह सोच कर कि हम भी आधुनिक हो जायेंगे। अगर हम यहां की परिस्थिति को बिना देख उनके पीछे चलेंगे तो अपने देश की हानि करेंगे। मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं और यह कहकर अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं कि यह जो बिल प्रवर समिति से आया है इससे देश का भला होने वाला नहीं है, इससे सम्पत्ति का विकेन्द्रीकरण होने वाला नहीं है। इससे देश म बहुत अन्धाधुन्धी होगी और जो धर्मशास्त्र के अनुसार उत्तराधिकार की पद्धति है उसके लिए यह हानिकर होगा। इसलिए अभी

[श्री वी० जी० देशपांडे]

आप इस पर फिर से सोच लें इतना ही मुझे कहना है ।

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): The world over, Mr. Chairman, from the cradle to the grave, property owners are pursued by tax collectors. Now, so far as death taxations are concerned, they carry the pursuit beyond death against the possessions of the deseased. (*An Hon. Member*: Life beyond death.) That it is so, that it ought to be so, is in full accord with social ethics. That I am willing to concede. Death taxations have for their objective not only revenue, but social changes of a far-reaching character. The moral sanction behind death taxations whether they take the shape of Estate duty, or whether they are in the form of Inheritance duty, is that there ought to be a lessening of the disproportionate disparity of wealth. That is the moral sanction. With this moral sanction, no reasonable man in the world today, no member of a welfare State can have dispute. The only dispute, the only controversy that will arise is whether the *via media* adopted, whether the mode thought of for bringing about that healthy lessening of the disparity is correct, whether there has been an avoidance of the unnecessary tyrannies and cruelties that may be perpetrated, if the Act is enacted in a thoughtless manner. When examining death taxation, it is worthwhile to have a very clear and lucid perception of the sharp distinction between the principles underlying one type of death taxation and another type of death taxation. I mean it is extremely desirable that we should be in a position to draw a sharp line of demarcation between estate duty or death duty as it is called, and inheritance duty. Happily for us, our Constitution-makers have given a very flexible, very broad and very liberal......

Shri N. P. Nathwani (Sorath): On a point of order, Sir, may I know whether it is open to any hon. Member at this stage to plead for or to make suggestions which are inconsistent with the principle of the Bill, viz., estate duty?

Shri Tek Chand: Before continuing, may I know how far my hon. friend can divine the ideas of another before they are as much as expressed?

A short while ago, my hon. colleague, Mr. Venkataraman expressed his views regarding estate duty *vis-a-vis* inheritance duty. I am only endeavouring to invite the sharp distinctions that deserve to be borne in mind. I have not yet pleaded one cause or another; I have not yet expressed one preference as against another, and if my hon. friend, the learned interrupter, can bide his peace for a short time, it would be in the interests of lucidity and clear understanding of the principle involved.

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Member proceed.

Shri Tek Chand: I was submitting that it is well worth bearing in mind the two sharp distinctions. The estate duty says: "Take the property of the deceased as one unit, and tax it accordingly." The inheritance duty says: "Take the property of the deceased in accordance with the shares in which it is distributed, and hand it over to the beneficiaries." When I was interrupted, I was going to invite the kind attention of the House to the very liberal definition of the estate duty as provided in Article 366 (9) of our Constitution.

> "'estate duty' means a duty to be assessed on or by reference to the principal value, ascertained in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by or under laws made by Parliament or the Legislature of a State relating to the duty, of all property passing upon death......"

My contention is that this very proper, very elastic definition can embrace within its ambit certain useful, socially welcome aspects of inheritance duty without doing any violence to the scheme of the Bill, without endeavouring to upset or revise the entire scheme of the Bill. Just by insertion of two Clauses, certain fundamental features of the inheritance duty, provided they are acceptable to the House, can easily be incorporated. The main feature of inheritance duty is that it takes into consideration what a particular beneficiary receives. It takes into consideration also the relationship of the beneficiary to the deceased. That is to say if the heirs or beneficiaries happen to be the direct heirs, to use an American terminology, or to be lineal heirs—whether lineal descendants or ascendants, whether parents or children—the burden of the duty is the least. This burden keeps on increasing when we come to the collateral and it is still more when we come to the remote collateral, and it is the highest when the estate is being enjoyed by a perfect stranger to the deceased. This is the principle underlying the inheritance duty. I do not want that

the Government should suffer one anna in this duty. All that I want is that the incidence of the duty should be distributed equitably—least burden on the nearest, most burden on a stranger. If this principle is adopted, it will be in absolute concord with all the principles of family affinity, with all the principles of justice and fairness, and in the brief time allotted to me I shall not endeavour to develop the point any further. In 1916, in no less than 42 States of the United States of America, the rule was of inheritance duty, and it was only in one State that there was an estate duty. Therefore, if some of the principles can be borrowed and embodied in our Bill, the Bill is not going to be changed out of all recognition. The Bill will be embracing and the Bill will be fortifying the principles of justice and fairness. That is an aspect of the Bill which I commend in all humility, but with the greatest force of persuasion at my command despite the fact that the horizontal movement of the hoary head opposite frightens me.

So far as the scheme of the Bill is concerned, there are certain aspects to which I take the liberty of inviting the close and careful notice of the hon. Members. One thing I wish to warn the House against. Any comparisons, any analogies that you may make with the United Kingdom law have their difficulties, have their anomalies. Our country, much as we wish should be developed to the same level, has not yet provided the social amenities, the social securities that are to be found in the United Kingdom. And, therefore, comparisons will be odious, and whenever we are out to borrow the provisions of the law as it stands in England, we should be careful to make a note, a careful note, of the fact that that country provides those social amenities which today is the exclusive responsibility of the bread-winner of the family here. Whether it is education, whether medical facilities, whether it is some sort of old age provision, it is the bread-winner of the family that has to see to it. The State does not provide that. I hope the time will soon come when our State does so.

Then I can only invite the notice of the House to certain glaring anomalies in the Bill—I cannot survey the entire Bill much as I would like to—relating to rapid succession, that is to say where death follows quickly after another death. I am sorry to say our Bill has treated the family in a very niggardly manner. I can think of so many illustrations where deaths follow not only because of epidemics, because of choleras and plagues, where deaths may also follow because of the vicarious acts on the part of others, where deaths can follow as a result of railway collisions—the grandfather dying immediately, the father dying a few hours later, the son dying on his way to the hospital and so on. If the Bill stood as it was, there can be three levies, four levies of estate duty within 24 hours.

Shri K. K. Desai (Halar): It is not there now?

Shri Tek Chand: They have liberalised, in all their generosity they have given three months within which if quick deaths followed, there will be exemption. But kindly take into consideration the laws of other countries. In South America, in Chile, there is a gap of 10 years permitted between one levy of death duty and the second duty, regardless of the number of intervening deaths.

In the law of the United States of America, they allow five years, in Japan they allow three months. Is that an adequate period within which you permit the estate to recuperate from the blow of death? I submit not. Even if you allow three months, it is possible to submit that very estate to a levy of estate duty four times in twelve months. Therefore, in the matter of quick succession, it will be sheer justice if the law could be liberalised so as to be on the pattern at least of American law, if not the law of Chile.

Regarding exemptions, it was stated: 'there is a long list of exemptions; why burden it more?' On the question of exemptions, there are only two matters on which I wish to take the time of this hon. House. One is, you must make a distinction between deaths due to *vis major*, due to the act of a third person and deaths of other types. For instance, you exempt very properly soldiers dying in action. But you do not exempt a policeman dying in the discharge of his duties when he receives a bullet from a dacoit. You do not exempt civilian population which is riddled with bullets from the air as a result of enemy action. You say on these deaths you are levying death duties.

I give one illustration. Suppose there is a dacoity—and dacoities are pretty common. The bread-winner is hacked to pieces. The adult members are also butchered. Whatever valuables they had, their jewellery, trinkets, cash etc., they are also taken away by the dacoits. Next morning the agent of the Government with his hands in his pocket comes along and

[Shri Tek Chand]

says to the bereaved members and the children, as if it were: 'I am sorry we could not provide adequate police protection to save the bread-winner. I am sorry that you have lost your family property. But I am here to wipe your tears with a further demand of death duty. Fork it out'. I submit—in the case of violent deaths, deaths due to accidents as a result of the vicarious negligence of Government—in railways, in air crashes and in other ways—to visit the members of the bereaved family with a further demand of estate duty will be wanton, will be cruel. (*Babu Ramnarayan Singh*: Hear, hear). Therefore, I pray that a sharp distinction ought to be drawn between deaths due to *vis major* and natural deaths. In one case they merit some pity, some mercy and some sympathy at the hands of the law-makers.

Regarding other exemptions, I have one thing to say. No doubt on paper we say property valued at such and such price. But there are certain properties which can be valued only in theory. For instance, there are properties which earn more wealth in the form of rents, agricultural yields and various other forms. If you are not willing to exempt an ancestral house, let us say, an ancestral house not exceeding a certain value; that is understandable. But ancestral houses as such the world over and more so in our country than in others perhaps, there is a sentimental value attached. People do not want that the ancestral house should come under the auctioneer's hammer. If that ancestral house could be saved, surely the State as such collectively is not going to lose very much. Therefore, in the case of exemptions, my submissions to the House is that these two exemptions are worth consideration.

Then again, if I turn to clause 42 of the Bill, I am amazed to find one noticeable omission. That most probably is due to some *faux pas*, an unintended mistake. Debts and encumbrances are gong to be deducted That is as it ought to be, very proper. But one thing that is missing is that taxes that are owed by the deceased are not mentioned in the deductable part of the estate. That is to say, A dies owing tax to the Government in the form of income tax and others. The arrears are yet to be calculated. yet to be determined. And it may transpire that he owes a certain sum, say, 10,000 or 5,000 rupees. But that tax which he owes to the State is indebtedness which is yet to be determined, which has not yet been assessed. That also should be exempted as a debt.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): That will be debt.

Shri Heda: He says it will come under debt.

Shri Tek Chand: I am grateful to you, Sir. But with the very limited knowledge of law that I profess, my fear is that if a literal interpretation is given, that cannot be excluded. Be that as it may, since we are *ad idem*, there is no harm if that exemption is also expressed.

Then regarding gifts, there is one artistic error. If it is deliberate, then it will lead to considerable amount of mischief. So far as gifts are concerned, you say 'gifts made *bona fide*' and 'two years' before. Why are you placing a limit of two years? That in the garb of gift, liability to tax may not be evaded is understandable. That there should be a gap of two years between the gift and the donor's death is usderstandable as a proof of '*bona fide*'. But if you are tagging on further the tautological expression *bona fide* and 'two years', it is not understandable to me as a lawyer or as a layman. Because you insist upon two conditions—a gap of two years plus good faith. That is to say, you got to say is, "Proof that the made 30 years ago, 40 years ago, 50 years ago when all evidence is lost. All that you have got to say is, "Proof that the gift was made 30 years ago is there. One hurdle is crossed. The other hurdle is, you must show proof of good faith." My feeling is that you will be calling upon the donors to conserve proof when proof may not be available. Therefore, the removal of the word *bona fide* will not take anything away from the genuineness of the gift.

Then again in the case of gifts, I have to say one thing. No doubt, according to the law as it is, the moment there is a gift made there is going to be a race between death and the donor. If death wins within two years, then gift disappears. If the donor wins in two years, then of course the gift is good for purposes of taxation. But take into consideration one illustration I wish to give. A in all genuineness and good faith makes a gift. Next week he takes a journey in one of your planes and there is a crash. You say that the donee must suffer. The donor, of course, is gone due to negligent act of the part of those manning the aircraft. Therefore, at least in cases where death overtakes within two

years as a result of accident or as a result of *vis major,* those gifts should be taken as good gifts, and exempt from duty.

Then take another illustration. A man agrees to give a gift today. Next week, dacoits come and butcher him. Are you going to say: 'We will not recognise this gift because your intention at the time of making the gift was ih contemplation of death'. Well, these death are not within contemplation. Therefore, I pray that in the case of gifts that rigid condition that there must be two years' race between death and the donor may not be insisted upon—provided ceath takes place within two years as a result of some *vis major.*

May I take a few minutes more, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Shri Tek Chand: Then in the case of clause 32(1) (a), the words 'public charitable purpose', I submit, are creating confusion. We have not a clear perception of what is a public purpose and what is a charitable purpose. According to the interpretation of the Bill, as it stands now, it means that it must be—the purpose must be—a public purpose plus a charitable purpose. Therefore, if I create a gift in favour of limited members of the community, let us say, in favour of a certain tribe, who are depressed or otherwise, it will not be public because the entire public cannot take benefit by it. If I create a gift in favour of scientific research, in favour of arts, literature or I want a museum to flourish, it may not be charitable, because charity, as I understand it according to legal notions or the dictionary meaning, must provide help for the helpless. So, to create a gift in favour of science, arts and researches will not be a charitable gift. Therefore, I pray that the word 'or' should be inserted; that is, whether the gift is for public purpose or for a charitable purpose. That gift should enjoy the exemption.

Then regarding other matters, there are going to be dangers to the State from under-valuation, dangers to beneficiaries from over-valuation. You have got to be very careful, that neither the State is swindled nor the beneficiaries are going to be subjected to bribery or extortion. Therefore, when you are appointing valuers, you have got to be careful. The best care that you can take is that any valuation made by them, if it is under-valuation and the State has suffered the State should have access to an independent Tribunal; if it is over-valuation, it should be available for the scrutiny of an independent Tribunal. They ought to convince the independent Tribunal of the correctness of the valuation. Market value is a rough and ready test which is good in most cases. I am willing to concede that. But then again, there are certain cases we have got specifically to provide for. For certain things, there are no market values. Let us suppose, I invent something; that invention is useful and I am making tons of money today. Tomorrow my American colleague comes out with a better invention and my invention may become valueless. Again, I write a piece of literature today of considerable merit; it has a good sale. Tomorrow it may cease to have any value. Therefore in the case of valuations of some thing that is going to be vague and difficult, proper steps should be taken that cases of hardship are not encountered one way or the other.

Lastly I may say the tax should be ear-marked for purposes of certain social amenities which are not found in this country today but are found elsewhere. Some portion of this tax ought to go to the needy, either in the form of education or medical relief or old-age pension and that should be ear-marked. Thereby, people at least know that when they are parting with something, they are benefiting somebody definitely and positively.

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, धर्म के द्वारा जिस राष्ट्र का शासन होता है और धर्म शब्द का अर्थ रिलीजन (religion) जिन लोगों ने किया है वह भारतीय भाषा विज्ञान के विरुद्ध हैं। रिलीजन का अर्थ धर्म शब्द से सर्वथा विपरीत है।

जो मनुष्य को बंधन में डालता है उस का नाम है रिलीजन। धर्म का अर्थ है वह जो बन्धन को काटता है, खत्म करता है उसका नाम है धर्म। एतावता धर्म का अर्थ रिलीजन से सर्वथा विपरीत है। उस धर्म के द्वारा जिसको आप ड्यूटी (duty) कह सकते हैं और मारल लाज, (moral laws), जिन

[श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा]

को आप विशेष धर्म के रूप से, जाति धर्म के नाम से कह सकते हैं, इन धर्म तत्वों के द्वारा जिस राष्ट्र का नियंत्रण होता है वही राष्ट्र आगे उन्नति कर सकता है और यही कारण है कि रामराज्य में आधि, व्याधि मानसिक चिन्ता और शारीरिक रोग नहीं होता था ।

अब में इस प्रस्तुत विषय पर आता हूं । यह विधेयक प्रवर समिति से लौट कर आ गया है और इस में बहुत कुछ सुधार भी कर दिया गया है । परन्तु मेरा विश्वास है कि कोयले के धोने की तरह अभी तक यह धुल नहीं पाया है । इस की कालिमा जा नहीं सकी है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : जा भी नहीं सकती ।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : कारण यह है कि सम्पत्ति से इस का सम्बन्ध है और सम्पत्ति इतनी काली है कि उस की कालिमा को धोने की सामर्थ्य संसार में कोई व्यक्ति नहीं रखता । मैं केवल एक बात कहना चाहता हूं जैसा कि मैंने पहले भी कहा था और उस का सम्बन्ध हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री गाडगिल के उन शब्दों से है जिस में उन्होंने कहा था कि सम्पत्ति जो एक स्थान पर स्थित है उस को हम पूरा पूरा मिटा दें । सम्पत्ति के राष्ट्रीयकरण का जो सिद्धान्त है उस को स्वीकार कर लें । जहां तक मैं समझता हूं यह साम्यवादी दृष्टिकोण है । इस से भिन्न नहीं हो सकता और हम पूरे पूरे उसी मार्ग पर चले जा रहे हैं, जिस का अन्तिम परिणाम व्यक्ति को सर्वथा शक्तिहीन, अशक्त, लुंज पुंज बना देना है जिस से यदि दूध की धोई सरकार न रहे, जैसी कि आज की सरकार कही जा सकती है, यदि सरकार के अन्दर लोगों में स्वार्थपरता आ गई, हमारी दूध की धोई हुई सरकार के बदले कोई दुष्ट विदेशी सरकार हो गई, प्रजा के हाथ में कोई बल न रहा, तो अन्ततः प्रजा का सर्वनाश निश्चित है । इस लिये इस सिद्धान्त को चला कर के, अमरीका, चिली, जापान और दूसरे देशों का अनुकरण मात्र कर के हम समझ लें कि हम सारी सम्पत्ति को मिटा कर के अंत में संसार को सुखी कर सकेंगे, तो गलत है । प्रजा को सुखी करने का शासन के पास एक ही उपाय है और वह यह है कि शासन अपनी अभिलाषाओं को कम कर दे । यदि शासन का खर्च, शासन का भार प्रजा के ऊपर कम पड़े तभी प्रजा सुखी हो सकती है ।

जैसे अंगारे बनाने वाला व्यक्ति पेड़ की जड़ की आग लगा कर पेड़ को जलाता है और अन्त में कोयला बेचने के लिये जाता है, कोई पूछता है कि तुम्हारे हाथ क्यों काले हैं, तो उत्तर देता है कि जंगल में जाकर देखो । लौट कर जंगल में जाता है वहां कोयला नहीं मिलता है । इस लिये अंगारे की तरह कभी भी टैक्स नहीं लगाना चाहिये । टैक्स किस प्रकार लगाना चाहिये ? जैसे कि पिछली बार हमारे वित्त मंत्री ने कहा था :

पुष्पं पुष्पं विचिन्वीते . . . . .

जैसे माली बागीचे के अन्दर एक एक फूल बीनता है, फुलवारी को नहीं नष्ट करता है उसी प्रकार से टैक्सेशन भी होना चाहिये । आज इस में क्या क्या दोष हैं मैं इस का जिक्र नहीं करना चाहता ।

हिन्दू धर्म शास्त्र और भी बाकी जितनी हिन्दू संस्कृति है वह व्यक्ति के पास पैसा रखने के सर्वथा विरुद्ध है । जिस के पास तीन वर्ष के भोजन के ऊपर धन हो उस

के लिए शास्त्र की आज्ञा है कि वह तत्काल अपने धन को सब जगह बांट दे। इसी प्रकार राजाओं के लिये राजसूय और अश्वमेध यज्ञ कर के अपने धन को दान करने की आज्ञा है। मैं चाहता हूं कि डैथ ड्यूटी (Death duty) के बदले आप लाइफ ड्यूटी बनाते।

आदमी अपनी भलाई के लिये, अपने परलोक के लिये पांच प्रकार से अपनी सम्पत्ति को बांट दे। तभी मनुष्य सुखी रह सकता है। इस प्रकार का दान न करके हम दूसरे देशों का अन्धानुकरण कर रहे हैं। मैं भगवान से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि इस देश में वह दान होने लगे। मेरे एक शब्द से धुलेकर जी को कष्ट हुआ। मैं किसी के प्रति अनुचित प्रकार का आक्षेप नहीं करना चाहता। मैं शास्त्र का अन्तिम विद्वान नहीं हूं। मैं ने गुरु जनों के चरणों में बैठ कर जो कुछ प्राप्त किया है उस को मैं रुपये में एक पैसा भी नहीं समझता हूं। मुझ से बढ़ कर विद्वान हो सकते हैं। आप कहते हैं कि मैं सारे भारत वर्ष के पंडितों को चैलेंज दे सकता हूं। मेरे सामने कोई खड़ा हो। मैं केवल यही कह सकता हूं कि मैं यह समझता हूं। इस लिये शंकर के कंठ की गर्जना करना ठीक नहीं है कारण सदा इस कंठ में रहना नहीं है।

बरसात की नदी बरसात के पानी से भरी उछलती कूदती जा रही थी। और अपने किनारों को ढहाती चली जा रही थी। उस को देख कर एक मस्ताने ने कह दिया कि ये वर्षा के दिन बीत जायेंगे। तेरे हवाई जहाज और मोटर गायब हो जायेंगे। उस वक्त हे तटिनी जिस ने तेरे तट की शरण ली थी उस वृक्ष को उखाड़ देने का कलंक तेरे ऊपर लगा रहेगा।

श्री गाडगिल (पूना मध्य) : पेड़ तो और हो सकते हैं।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : हां पेड़ हो तो सकते हैं। अगर कोई गधा घास को चर जाये तो घास फिर पैदा हो सकती है। जब सावन आयेगा तो घास फिर पैदा हो जायगी और गधा बेचारा हड्डी हड्डी रह जायगा। तो यह मेरा निवेदन है। मैं किसी के प्रति कोई आक्षेप नहीं करता। न मेरे अन्दर किसी व्यक्ति के प्रति दुर्भाव ही है। मैं तो राम राज्य की भावना लेकर इस संसद् में आया हूं और ईश्वर से प्रार्थना है कि यहां राम राज्य हो जाय। आप ने राम राज्य शब्द को छोड़ कर वैलफेयर स्टेट (Welfare State) कर दिया है। लेकिन वेलफेयर शब्द की कोई क़ीमत नहीं है। जैसे कि कम्युनिस्ट भाइयों के कामरेड शब्द की कोई कीमत नहीं है। एक समय हिटलर और स्टालिन ने एक दूसरे को कामरेड कहा था पर कुछ समय बाद वह एक दूसरे का गला काटने को तैयार हो गये। कारण यह था कि उन के बीच में धर्म नहीं था। सुग्रीव ने अग्नि को साक्षी देकर रामचन्द्र जी से मित्रता की थी लेकिन उसको कभी नहीं त्यागा क्योंकि उस में बीच में धर्म था इसलिये अगर कामरेड और वेलफेयर स्टेट इन शब्दों को हटा दिया जाय तो अच्छा है।

एक बात और है जो कि मैं ने पिछली बार भी कही थी। इस बिल को मिताक्षरा के सिद्धान्त से सिद्धान्ततः विरोध है। कारण हिन्दू मिताक्षरा के अनुसार ओनर आफ दी प्रापर्टी कभी मरता नहीं है। इसी लिये पुत्र का नाम है सन्तान। सन्तान का अर्थ होता है कंटीन्युएशन (continuation)। इस तरह ओनर बराबर चलता चला जायगा। वह पिता के मरने पर सम्पत्ति को इनहैरिट

[श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा]

(inherit) नहीं करता है। पिता की मृत्यु पर इस प्रकार का कोई प्रश्न उठता ही नहीं है। यह तो उसका जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है। मिताक्षरा के सिद्धांत के अनुसार उस को जन्म से ही यह अधिकार प्राप्त होता है। इस लिये मृत्यु के पश्चात कर लगने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता। इसी लिये मैं कह रहा हूं कि आप जो इस टैक्स को लगा रहे हैं इस के बजाय जो पांच प्रकार का वित्त बंधन है . . .

रक्षा संगठन मंत्री (श्री त्यागी) : तो क्या आप का यह मतलब है कि जब बच्चा पैदा हो उसी वक्त उस से ड्यूटी ले ली जाय ?

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : खेद है कि आप उस समय थे नहीं जब मैं ने यह कहा था कि जो पांच प्रकार का वित्तीय बन्धन है उस को स्टेट् को एनफोर्स कराना चाहिये। वह आपने सुना नहीं। कम्युनिस्ट बेचारे आज हम को समझाते हैं कैपीटलिज्म के बारे में। हम कहते हैं कि हमारे यहां जो धन का परित्याग बताया गया है वैसा और कहीं आप को मिलेगा नहीं। जितने में पेट भर जाय उतना पैसा मनुष्य को रखने का अधिकार है उस से जो अधिक पैसा रखता है वह चोर है और दंड का अधिकारी है।

श्री गाडगिल : यह बिलकुल ठीक है।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : लेकिन यह आप के व्यवहार में नहीं है। जो एक एक लाख का ऐग्जेम्प्शन (exemption) कराने को फिर रहे हैं। हमारे यहां यह था कि जिस समय राम ने यज्ञ किया तो वैदेही माता के हाथ में एक लाल तागा रह गया था बाकी सब कुछ दान दे दिया गया था।

श्री गाडगिल : अब कोई ऐसा यज्ञ नहीं करता।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : यज्ञ करवाना स्टेट का काम है।

आप धर्म का तो समूलोन्मूलन कर रहे हैं और फिर चाहते हैं कि सुख और शांन्ति मिले। हरिश्चन्द्र ने सब कुछ दान करके श्मशान में नौकरी की। क्या हम इस प्रकार के यज्ञ करवा रहे हैं? मरने पर आप दूसरे के कन्धे पर चढ़ कर कर लेने के लिये कहते हैं।

अब मैं दो एक शब्द गिफ्ट (gift) के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूं। सब बातें तो कह नहीं सकता।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has got only two minutes more.

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : गिफ्ट के सम्बन्ध में आप ने दो वर्ष का और ६ मास का बन्धन रखा है। दुर्भाग्य है कि इन महापंडितों ने जो शास्त्रों के सम्बन्ध में सारे संसार के पंडितों को चैलेंज देने को तयार हैं, इस बात का ध्यान नहीं रखा कि हमारे यहां दान की विशेष महिमा है आतुर काल में। पिता की मृत्यु के समय पुत्र का यह कर्तव्य है कि वह धन के मोह को छोड़ कर सारी सम्पत्ति पिता के आगे रख दे कि दान दे दीजिये यह आप की सम्पत्ति है। नचकेता अपने पिता से जा कर पूछता है जो कि यज्ञ कर रहे हैं कि, 'हे पिता मैं भी तो आप की सम्पत्ति हूं आप मुझे किस के लिये दान करते हैं।' पिता पुत्र के लिये अपनी सम्पत्ति को स्वार्थवश रख लेना चाहते थे।

उस समय उन्होंने क्रोध में आकर कहा कि, 'मैं तुझे मृत्यु के लिये देता हूं'। पुत्र मृत्यु के पास चला जाता है। आज भी अन्त समय में दान करवाने की परम्परा है। आखिरी समय में ग़रीब से ग़रीब बेटा भी अपने पिता से कुछ न कुछ दान करवाना चाहता है। उसी दान को आप ने इस में रख दिया है।

श्री गाडगिल : दान पर प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है। दान के साथ कर दे दो जैसे कि बड़ी दक्षिणा के साथ भोजन भी दिया जाता है।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : I hope the time of the interruption will be deducted.

मैं दान के सम्बन्ध में यह शुद्ध भावना से निवेदन कर रहा हूं। हां आप उस के बोनाफायडीज (bona fides) का ध्यान रखें। मैं इस लिये निवेदन करना चाहता हूं और मैं बिल्कुल शुद्ध भावना से निवेदन कर रहा हूं कि दान के सम्बन्ध में सरकार केवल एक बात का ध्यान रखे कि वह बोना फाइडी है। मैं बोना फाइडी के लिये तो नहीं कहूंगा कि बोना फाइडी का परित्याग कर दिया जाय। लेकिन यदि उस ने शुद्ध भावना से, सत्य भावना से दान किया है तो उस का ज़रूर ध्यान रखा जाय। और आप ने स्वयं इस को स्वीकार किया है और कहा है "गाड्स गिफ्ट फार लायर्स" (God's gift for lawyers)। अगर वकीलों के लिये कृपा हो तो फिर दान के लिये कृपा क्यों न हो। दान करने वाला तो मर गया, उस का तो कोई ऐफीडेविट (affidavit) होने वाला नहीं है और जो पीछे बच गये उन के लिये सारा प्रपंच होगा। तो जो प्रपंच है उस के लिये बोना फाइडी को छोड़ कर और कोई बन्धन न डाला जाय, समय का बन्धन न डाला जाय, और किसी प्रकार का बन्धन न रखा जाय। यहां विशेषकर चैरिटैबुल गिफ्टस के लिये कहा गया तो उस का ध्यान रखा जाय।

एक शब्द मुझे वैल्युएशंन (valuation) के लिये कहना है। आप ने मारकेट वैल्यू (market value) कही है, लेकिन आप समझिये कि जिस व्यक्ति की सारी की सारी प्रापर्टी मारकेट पर लगी तो मारकेट वैल्यू उस को प्राप्त नहीं होती है, उस का तो दिवाला निकल जाता है और कीमत बहुत गिर जाती है। इसलिये इस का भी विशेष ध्यान रखा जाय। अब बाद में फिर मुझे अवसर मिलेगा तो मैं इस सम्बन्ध में निवेदन करूंगा।

Shri L. N. Mishra (Darbhanga *cum* Bhagalpur): I welcome this measure. I welcome it not because it is a very revolutionary measure, but because it is a step in the right direction and it will enable us to fulfil one of our election pledges to our people.

I also believe that this is one of the many measures that we intend to bring forward to put an end to the inequality of wealth in our country. As the House knows this Estate Duty Bill has a history of its own and today it is emerging out of a chequered career of long twenty-seven years. Even in the form of a Bill it has been before us for the last seven years and hence there is nothing new to be said about it. However, I would like to say a few words in its favour.

We are pledged to have a welfare state and hence, it is necessary to have more and more of revenues for the expanding activities of the State of a welfare character. That increasing revenue has to come from the national wealth of the country, or the national income of the country. What proportion of the national wealth should go to the revenue is a matter for careful consideration. This percentage to a large extent depends upon the character of the expenditure which the State makes. According to leading economists like Bertil Ohlin and Lord John Meynard Keynes, the present proportion is about 25 per cent. in the advanced countries of the

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

world. But in India, taking the Union and the Provincial finance together, this proportion is about 10 per cent. In a country like India with an undeveloped economy and large number of low income groups, it is perhaps not possible to have the high percentage of 25. Therefore, this 10 per cent may be said to be not unsatisfactory. Still, there is some scope fot increase in it.

When I advocate increase in taxation, I confine it entirely to the sector of direct taxation. As the tax structure of our country is mainly based upon indirect taxation, and our population is suffering from the regressive effects of indirect taxation. Therefore, here I am glad to say that the Estate Duty Bill is not only a measure for direct tax, but also in the nature of a direct levy on the capital. The criterion of a good tax system is that it should depend on a few, substantial taxes for the bulk of its revenue. I am sure there can be little doubt about the fact that the Estate Duty will be one of the substantial taxes in the tax structure of our country.

12 Noon

Further the Esate Duty has been an important weapon in the fiscal armoury of almost all the important countries of the world. It is the only rightful means of appropriating a share of unearned income and scaling down the inequalities of wealth in society. By this levy, I am sure the State will go a long way to narrow down the present gulf between the rich and the poor in our country and it may also create structual equilibrium in economic life of our society. Therefore, the Planning Commission has suggested the imposition of this taxation to achieve equality of wealth and also for mobilisation of productive resources of the country.

As the House knows almost all the national plans meant for the economic development of the country, like the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan and the Colombo Plan have taken into account the receipts from the Estates Duty and we can make out a very strong case for the imposition of this tax from them.

The introduction of an Estate Duty has been opposed on the ground that it may affect savings and thereby jeopardise capital formation in the country. I do not accept this argument as right and valid. The experience of countries where this taxation has been in operation for a large number of years suggests that it neither affects savings nor curbs initiative. On account of the peculiar character of modern industries taxes like Estate Duty do not affect savings in any way. The experience of England show that there with the increase in proceeds from death duties there has been a simultaneous increase in capital wealth of the country. Further, I would like to say a word about the role of savings in national economy. You know, Sir, modern economists like J. M. Keynes have said that saving is not always a boon. Savings do have beneficial effects, especially in the conditions of full employment by checking inflationary forces but not under conditions of less than full employment.

Pandit L. K. Maitra (Navadwip): That was what he said in connection with unemployment; if the money is there and employment is not there.

Shri L. N. Mishra: So, saving is not an objective which we should follow without some amount of reserve.

Further the Estate Duty Bill in its present form will not affect savings in any way. Ethically also there is nothing wrong with this Bill. I do not think people have got an unlimited right to property. To tax the property of individuals is a prerogative of the State and no better justification for the introduction of the Estate Duty can be found than what Sir William Harcourt said in his Budget speech of 1894:

> "Nature gives man no power over his earthly goods beyond the term of his life. What he possesses, to prolong his will after his death—the right of dead hand to dispose of property—is a pure creation of law and the State has a right to prescribe the conditions and the limitations under which that power shall be exercised."

Coming to the details of the Bill I should say that in a Bill of this character controversies and disagreements are bound to follow. But we have to look at it objectively and taking an objective view of the thing I must say that the Select Committee has made distinct improvements, especially in the matter of exemption level. But to my mind the exemption level appears to be a bit high, particularly in a country like ours.

Some hon. Members spoke of the common man. I do not know who is that common man having a property of Rs. 50.000 or Rs. 75.000. The schedule of exemptions incorporated in

the Bill is to be welcome from the taxpayer's point of view.

Before I conclude I would like to suggest one thing, and that is about relief to agriculturists. Very special care should be taken in imposing taxes on the agriculturists. You know there is no organised market for land, and value of land changes very often. There may be a number of agriculturists in our country having landed property worth two or three lakhs of rupees, but they can hardly manage Rs. 25 lakhs of cash. Therefore I suggest that if the agriculturist cannot pay the tax in cash, option should be given to him to transfer part of his property in satisfaction of the whole or a part of the tax. In Great Britain there is such a provision under the Finance Act of 1910 and it has proved to be of great relief to farmers. I would like the Finance Minister to take this matter into consideration. Further, at a time when we contemplate to bring forward far-reaching changes in the land system of our country, the State need not feel hesitant to acquire and own land and start State farms. If we acquire land it may lead to the partial nationalisation of land. Therefore I suggest that option should be given to the agriculturists to transfer a part of their property in satisfaction of the duty they have to pay.

Finally I shall say that estate duty is a prime need of a welfare State, because of two reasons. In the first place it is a productive source of revenue and it is recommended by all the canons of taxation. It will find finance for many of the schemes detailed in the Five Year Plan. Secondly, it will lead to "gradual peaceful equalisation" of wealth which the imposition of Income-tax has failed to achieve. In that way it is a very progressive measure and should be adopted. By limiting inheritance it will do away with one class, that is the class of 'rentiers' and will force them to 'live by work' and thereby be a contributory to the uplift of the country. I think this estate duty will open a new chapter in the history of Indian taxation and I hope it will prove to be of great help to the Finance Minister.

With these few words I support the measure.

Shri Raghubir Sahai (Etah Distt.—North East *cum* Budaun Distt.—East): I rise to give my whole-hearted support to this Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee. At the very outset I may say that the report of the Select Committee has come to me as a great agreeable surprise. The House may be aware that last time when the Bill was introduced I had my own doubts and I was one of the greatest sceptics about the utility of this Bill. My greatest grouse against the Bill was that it had not laid down any minimum exemption limit and thereby it had aroused a lot of nervousness and uneasiness in the minds of middle class people.

I am very grateful to the hon. the Finance Minister as well as to the Members of the Select Committee who have seen their way to embody in this Bill an exemption limit and also to lay down a number of items that have been excluded from the purview of the estate duty. By making a provision for those things, I think the sting has been taken out of the tail of this Bill and therefore I am very glad that I have an opportunity to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister as well as the other Members of the Select Committee who considered the Bill in all its aspects.

Coming to some of the specific items that have been dealt with in this Bill, I may first point out the case of gifts. It has been provided that a gift to an extent of Rs. 2,500/- which has been made for a public charitable purpose and also within six months of the death of the deceased would be excluded. It is one of the exemptions. So far as this exemption is concerned, I think there can be no two opinions that it is very proper but I do not see the need of laying down either a limit to its valuation or a limit to the time. Nobody can foresee when a man would die and to lay down a time limit of six months, I think, will be very hard. Moreover just to lay down a limit of Rs. 2,500/- would also be highly improper for, I think the idea of charity is inborn and every Indian, especially a Hindu, is used to it and would like to give something of his property for charitable purposes. Why should you put a limit to the charitable-minded propensity of a man? In my humble opinion, neither a time limit should be fixed nor that of value. You should only see that the gift has been made for a *bona. fide* charitable purpose and so far as I have been able to study this point, I think in the United Kingdom as well as in Australia, there is neither a time limit to any gift nor any valuation limit to any charitable gift.

Sir, with your permission, I may invite your attention to a provision that has been made in England about gifts to national trusts. They are something of the kind of public charitable purpose. With regard to those trusts, no limit has been put either as

[Shri Raghubir Sahai]

regards valuation or as regards time. I fear that if you make such a provision in this Bill, gifts of the kinds of Swaraj Bhavan made by the late Pandit Motilal Nehru, the illustrious father of our Prime Minister, would not be possible. Everybody knows that Swaraj Bhavan which was formerly known as Anand Bhavan, was the very residence of the late Pandit Motilal Nehru. It was valued at a very high price. Does the House think or any hon. Member of this House think that henceforward no such charitable-minded person would be born? There may be many such persons who might be prepared to gift out large properties for public charitable purposes. So if you make a provision of this kind, you will be putting a sort of a limit and check on their charitable activities. I would submit that this point may be considered by the hon. Finance Minister.

Next I would take the case of gifts made by deceased persons in consideration of the marriage of any of their female relatives. That is also a very salutary and a very wholesome provision and this would give a lot of solace and relief to Hindus all over the country because everybody knows that the problem of marriage of girls is very difficult these days and if a provision like this is made, it would certainly give relief to a large number of people. But, when you make a provision for excluding a definite sum that has been set apart for the marriage of girls, why not a similar sum be made for the education of sons. Because, cases may arise where people may die young. Reference was made to the air tragedy that took place only a couple of days ago. One of the Members of this august House was involved in it. Who knows, he may have left minor sons or he may have made provision for the education of those sons. If you pass this Estate Duty Bill, the provision that has been made for the marriage of daughters would be excluded, but the provision that has been made for the education of minor sons would not be excluded. I think that point should also be considered by the hon. Finance Minister and by this House.

In the minutes of dissent that have been appended to this report, I find that a number of persons have raised the question about excluding the ordinary residence or house where the deceased used to live, from the scope of this duty. To my mind, there is a lot of force in that contention. But, we should not ignore the other side of the picture also. Because while there may be houses worth Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, or Rs. 25,000, there may be houses, on the other hand, which may cost 5 lakhs or 10 lakhs of rupees. Reference was made here that if houses were to be excluded, so many magnificent houses of the princes would also be excluded from the purview of this Estate duty. We should not look at this problem from this narrow stand point, but from a larger stand point. Generally, the feeling among the people is that their domestic houses even after their death should remain in the possession of their successors. That is a natural feeling and I wish that this House should not only consider dispassionately that sentiment but respect that so far as possible. But, in the larger interests of the country, and also in order that this Bill after its passage into law may not be rendered nugatory, we should also see that certain reasonable limits are put on this. I would suggest very respectfully that where under clause 34 property up to Rs. 50,000 will be excluded, that limit may be raised up to 1 lakh so that houses of moderate prices, say, about 25,000 or 30,000 would come within that limit, and they would also be excluded.

This takes me to another point—and it is also very pertinent—whether the exempted items should be included in the aggregate property for the purpose of calculation of the Estate duty. In clause 33 of the Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, it has been laid down:

> "For determining the rate of estate duty to be paid on any property passing on the death of the deceased, all property so passing, excluding property on which no estate duty is leviable under section 34 but including property exempted from duty under section 32......shall be aggregated so as to form one estate and the duty shall be levied at the rate or rates applicable in respect of the principal value thereof."

I confess that I am unable to appreciate the reasoning of this Clause which I have just read out. Now, if you want that these things should be exempted as you have laid down in Clause 32 from the estate duty, then they should continue to remain exempted. It is not proper that while by the one hand you give those things, by another hand you take away the things which you have already given. So, what I beg to submit is that those excluded items should not be aggregated in the common pool so that the duty on the entire property may be levied at a specific rate.

In support of what I am saying I find that in the United Kingdom also these exempted properties are not aggregated for the purpose of fixation of rates, and if the principle has been found to be acceptable in the United Kingdom. I see no difficulty in accepting that principle here also. It may be said, and it can very well be contended: "Why give so many exemptions? If so many exemptions are given, then the Act will be rendered entirely nugatory and its effect will be almost nil". To these critics I may be permitted to say that this kind of legislation or this kind of imposition of duty or tax is something entirely different from other taxes to which we are used. This duty was never meant to be imposed on each and every estate irrespective of the value of the property or without any regard to the type of heirs.

I had occasion to go through some of the chapters of the very admirable brochure prepared by Shri Gadgil on death duties, and in one of the paragraphs therein I found the following.

> "It should, however, be made clear that in the case of the surviving spouse and minor children where there is no provider and to whom the inherited property provides the only basis of their existence, any tax without sufficient exemption limit would be an unjust imposition".

I would beg of you and I request all the hon. Members of this House to note the words "sufficient exemption". They have not laid down minimum exemption or exemptions as few as possible, but sufficient exemptions, and this is the accepted principle in all the countries wherever estate duty has been levied.

Shri Gadgil proceeding a little further in the same book has justified this exemption, and he says:

> "Minimum exemptions from the administrative point of view of estate duties is quite defensible. If every estate was to be taxed irrespective of its value, it would be vexatious and it would be yielding less revenue. The primary interest of the exemption is to save the tax administration the cost of checking and auditing thousands of returns of small estates, and the receipts would not cover or would do little more than cover the costs."

This is, as I have submitted, the experience of other countries as well. I am going to take only a very short time. When we refer to U.K. we find that although the exemption limit there has been raised very high, the figures of yield have gone higher and higher. Sir, with your permission, I may quote that in the year 1938 although the yield from this estate duty in England was £78 million. In 1944 it was 107 million, in 1945, 119 million, in 1946, 142 million, in 1947, 163 million and in 1948, 160 million.

Shri M. C. Shah: The exemption limit is £2,000 only.

Shri Raghubir Sahai: Yes, that I know. It was raised from £200 to £2,000 and thereafter the yield has been rising from year to year.

Sir, I would not take much time of the House. I would only urge in the end that greater care should be taken in the administration of this Act so that there might be the minimum number of evasions, because the success of the Act depends upon how well it is administered. With these few words, I support the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: At 12-45 we have got a half hour discussion. So now there are 20 minutes more. If hon. Members can finish in ten minutes each, I can accommodate two speakers.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak) *rose*—

Mr. Chairman: Shri S. N. Das.

श्री एस० एन० दास (दरभंगा मध्य) : सभापति जी, इस सभा में कई सदस्यों के भाषण सुन कर मुझे बड़ा ही आश्चर्य हुआ। स्वराज्य मिलने के कई वर्ष बाद सरकार यही तो एक ऐसा कानून लाई है कि जो उन सिद्धान्तों और आदर्शों के अनुकूल है जिन को कि हम ने अपने सामने रखा है कि हम अपने समाज के अन्दर समानता लायेंगे। उन सिद्धान्तों के अनुसार सरकार बड़े परिश्रम के बाद सन् १९४६ से ले कर सन् १९५३ तक परिश्रम, गवेषणा और विचार विमर्श करने के बाद, अनेक बाधाओं और विघ्नों को पार करके इस विधेयक को लाई है और इस को हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी को यहां रखने का मौक़ा मिला है। इस समय भी हमारे बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने धर्म के नाम पर, परम्परा के नाम पर या संस्कृति के नाम पर इस विधेयक क

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

सम्बन्ध में आपत्तियां उठाने का साहस किया है। मैं उन के साहस की प्रशंसा करता हूं। आज के जमाने में जब कि बहुत सी शताब्दियों से संचित की हुई जनता के परिश्रम से उपार्जित जो कुछ सम्पत्ति लोगों के हाथ में जमा है उस पर थोड़ा सा आघात करने के लिये यह विधेयक लाया गया है तो हमारे बहुत से भाई न मालूम सहानुभूति में या स्वयं आघात पा कर छटपटा उठे हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि जिस जनता की तरफ से वे प्रतिनिधि हो कर आये हैं उस का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करते हैं। अगर कोई भी संसद् का सदस्य आज सन् १९५३ में इस साधारण विधेयक का या तो विरोध करे या विरोध का आभास प्रदर्शन करे तो मैं समझता हूं कि उस को उस रोगी की तरह समझा जाना चाहिये कि जिस के शरीर पर एक छोटा सा आपरेशन किया जाता है या एक साधारण सा इंजैक्शन दिया जाता है और वह छटपटा उठता है। आज हमारा समाज पुराने समाज से बदल कर एक नये समाज का रूप धारण कर रहा है। हो सकता है कि यह प्रसव की वेदना हो। इस नये समाज के जन्म लेते समय हमारे कुछ भाइयों को जो वेदना अनुभव हो रही है मैं समझता हूं कि यह उन की असली वेदना नहीं है बनावटी वेदना है। मैं समझता हूं कि अब समाज का कल्याण होने वाला है।

सभापति जी, मैं समझता हूं कि यह एक ऐसा बिल है जिस से सरकार हमारी प्रशंसा की भाजन बन सकती है। यद्यपि मैं यह समझता हूं कि जिस रूप में हम इस बिल को इस हाउस में देखना चाहते थे उस रूप में यह हमारे सामने नहीं आया है फिर भी यह बहुत सही है। हमारे बहुत से कांग्रेस के सदस्यों ने कहा है कि हम को साधारण आदमी की तरफ, मध्यम श्रेणी के आदमी की तरफ भी देखना चाहिये, हमारा ध्यान उस तरफ भी जाना चाहिये। हिन्दुस्तान की ८० प्रतिशत जनता ऐसी है जिस को खाने का ठिकाना नहीं है, रहने का ठिकाना नहीं है, पहनने का ठिकाना नहीं है। उस के मुकाबले में आज बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जो उस के परिश्रम से उपार्जित धन का अनेक प्रकार से उपभोग करते हैं और साधारण जनता के नाम पर यह कहते हैं कि यह विधेयक ठीक नहीं है, इस में यह संशोधन होना चाहिये और वह संशोधन होना चाहिये। मैं समझता हूं कि यह प्रतिनिधित्व का उपहास करना है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह सरकार जितना ही विलम्ब कर रही थी इस बिल को लाने में और जितना हम विलम्ब करते हैं इस बिल को पास करने में मैं समझता हूं कि जिस जनता की तरफ से हम यहां आये हैं उतना ही हम उस के प्रति विश्वासघात कर रहे हैं। जो कुछ भी धन हमारे देश में है वह सब समाज का धन है। किसी मनुष्य के मरने पर समाज को उस के धन पर पहले अधिकार होना चाहिये और उस के स्त्री और बच्चों को उस के बाद में अधिकार होना चाहिये। खासकर आज के राज्य में जब कि राज्य ने जनता की भलाई का हर तरह का काम अपने जिम्मे लिया हुआ है। पढ़ाई का इन्तिजाम करना, रक्षा का इन्तिजाम करना, अस्पताल खोलना आदि जितने भी समाज के उपकार के काम हैं उन को आज राज्य कर रहा है। माता पिता के जो काम हैं जैसे शिक्षा का इन्तिजाम करना आदि उन को राज्य कर रहा है। आज समाज शिक्षा का इन्तिजाम करता है, चिकित्सा का इन्तिजाम करता है, बच्चे की रक्षा का काम करता है। ऐसी अवस्था में से यदि राज्य आज संचित धन में से थोड़ा सा हिस्सा मांगता है तो आज यह छटपटाहट नजर आती है। मैं समझता हूं कि जब भी हम कोई सुधार का कानून लायेंगे तो इसी प्रकार

की छटपटाहट होगी । उस पर हमें विचार नहीं करना चाहिये । यह तो छोटा आपरेशन है । मैं समझता हूं कि हम को तो आगे बड़े बड़े मेजर आपरेशन करने पड़ेंगे । इसलिये जो हम को तकलीफ यहां और बाहर दिखलाई पड़ती है उस की हम को परवाह नहीं करनी चाहिये । आज संसद् के अधिकांश सदस्य यह समझते हैं कि आज वक्त आ गया है कि जब हम समाज के धन में से अधिक से अधिक हिस्सा ले कर राष्ट्र के कोष में लायें और उसे इस तरह काम में लायें जिस से कि गरीब से गरीब के लिये पूर्ण व्यवस्था की जा सके । उस के पढ़ने लिखने का, और उस के स्वस्थ रहने का इन्तिज़ाम किया जा सके ।

सभापति जी, सब से पहली बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि लोग कहते हैं कि जिस धन को मरने वाला मरने के पहले दान कर दे उस धन को इस कर से मुक्त कर देना चाहिये । मैं समझता हूं कि आज जब समाज ने इतना काम अपने ऊपर ले लिया है, राष्ट्र न जब इतना काम अपने ऊपर ले लिया है, तो किसी व्यक्ति को दान करने की गुंजाइश नहीं रहनी चाहिये । अगर समाज में कोई भी ऐसा व्यक्ति हो जिस की रक्षा का, शिक्षा का, देख रेख का, रहने का राज्य इन्तिज़ाम न कर सके तो उस राज्य को कल्याणकारी राज्य कहलाने का हक़ नहीं है । उस राज्य को हट जाना चाहिय । इसीलिये जब हम ऐसा दावा ले कर चलते हैं कि हम एक कल्याणकारी राज्य ह और हिन्दुस्तान के हर बच्चे की चाहे वह किसी धम या मज़हब का हो, चाहे वह गरीब हो, या धनी परिवार का हो, सब की शिक्षा दीक्षा का प्रबन्ध करेंगे, तब मरने के वक्त इन कामों के लिये दान देने की आवश्यकता ही नहीं रह जाती । म समझता हूं कि जितना दान हो वह सब राष्ट्र के कोष में होना चाहिये और उस का व्यवस्थित रूप म खर्च हो । इस से बढ़ कर समाज का कल्याण दूसरा नहीं होगा । मैं समझता हूं कि जब हमारा राज्य एक पुलिस राज्य था उस समय व्यक्ति के इस प्रकार के दान करने की आवश्यकता थी ।

व्यक्ति को मरते वक्त ख्याल होता है, उस के मन में इस प्रकार की भावनायें होती हैं । वह अपने सामने देखता है कि लोग पीड़ित ह, दुःख में हैं, उन के लिये शिक्षा का इन्तज़ाम नहीं है तो वह सोचता है कि उस को इस के लिये दान करना चाहिये । लेकिन यह उस सम । की बात है जब कि सरकार का काम केवल पुलिस रखने का या फौज रखने का था । किन्तु आज सरकार का काम फौज या पुलिस रखने का ही नहीं है। अगर सरकार का, कल्याण-कारी सरकार का, काम आज यह सरकार नहीं कर सकती तो यह सरकार यहां ठहर भी नहीं सकेगी । दूसरी सरकार इस के स्थान पर आवेगी यदि कोई सरकार शिक्षा दीक्षा, खाने पीने का इन्तिज़ाम नहीं कर सकेगी तो वह इस देश में कायम नहीं रह सकती है । इसी दावे पर मैं कहता हूं कि जो धनी लोग हैं उन को आज उदारतापूर्वक महात्मा जी के आदेशानुसार ट्रस्टी (trustee) के रूप में ही धन रखना चाहिये । जितने धन की उन को आवश्यकता हो उस को ही व रखें और बाक़ी धन सरकार के कोष में रखा जाय । लेकिन दुःख के साथ मैं मानता हूं कि यह भावना अभी लोगों में नहीं है । किन्तु धीरे धीरे यह भावना मध्यम श्रेणी के लोगों में, उच्च मध्यम श्रेणी और नीचे की मध्यम श्रेणी के लोगों में आ जाएगी कि अब राष्ट्र से बढ़ कर कोई दूसरी संस्था ऐसी नहीं है कि जिस संस्था को अपने धन का ज्यादा से ज्यादा हिस्सा दान में उन को देना चाहिये जिस से कि

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शिक्षा का इन्तिज़ाम हो सके, लोगों के रहने का इन्तिज़ाम हो सके ।

इसलिये व्यक्तिगत रूप से तो मैं इस का विरोध करता हूं कि जो छूट दी गई है वह छूट दी जाये । लेकिन हमें तो समाज की हालत को देखना है । यह एक रोगी की तरह है और रोगी का आपरेशन करना है तो ऐसा आपरेशन न करें कि रोगी की पीड़ा बढ़ जाये । इसलिये रोगी की हालत को देख कर आपरेशन जरा सा ढीला करना पड़ता है । तो सम्पत्ति कर के विषय में जो यह बिल हमारे पास रखा गया है इस हाउस में उस का मैं विरोध तो नहीं करता हूं, लेकिन मैं यह अवश्य चाहता हूं कि कम से कम छूट दी जाय ।

फिर जो नीचे की सीमा की गई है, यद्यपि वर्तमान अवस्था में मैं उसे ठीक समझता हूं, लेकिन अच्छा होता कि उस सीमा को घटा कर और नीचा कर दिया जाता । जितना धन, एकत्रित धन समाज के कतिपय लोगों के पास है, अच्छा है कि वह जो एक तरह से मवाद सा है, उस को हम निकाल लें । यदि हम थोड़ा थोड़ा कर के उस को हटावेंगे तो भय है कि समाज रूपी शरीर सड़ न जाये । इसलिये यह मवाद रूपी जो एकत्रित धन रोग के रूप में हमारे समाज में है, यह जहां कहीं इकट्ठा हो गया है, इस को हम हटा दें ताकि समाज का हर अंग समान रूप से स्वस्थ रहे ।

सभापति जी, आप जानते हैं कि कितना बड़ा कार्यक्रम पंचवर्षीय योजना में हम ने विकास का लिया है । कोई भी माननीय सदस्य यहां ऐसे नहीं हैं जो कि समय समय पर वित्त मंत्री के सामने नहीं कहते हैं कि केन्द्र से हम को कोष मिलना चाहिये । मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि काम बढ़ा हुआ है प्रान्त की सरकार का, उस के पास बहुत काम है, तो प्रान्त की सरकार को यह काम करना चाहिये । फिर भी हम बार बार कहते हैं कि केन्द्र से सहायता मिलनी चाहिये । यह धन केन्द्र में तो आने वाला है नहीं । लेकिन मैं इस सम्बन्ध में कहूंगा कि सभी माननीय सदस्य यही आग्रह करते हैं कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा काम राष्ट्र के विकास का, जनता की भलाई का हो । लेकिन जब धन का वक्त आता है तो कहते हैं कि कम से कम सरकार के खज़ाने में पैसा जाये । यह दोनों काम एक साथ होने वाले नहीं हैं । आप यदि जनता की भलाई का काम करना चाहते हैं तो जहां समाज में अर्जित धन, एकत्रित धन पड़ा है वह सरकार के कोष में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे तभी समाज को कल्याणकारी राज्य में बदल सकते हैं । अगर आप चाहते हैं कि समाज को इस तरह बनावें तो हमारे लिये जरूरी है कि हम जहां से भी हो सके धन को सरकारी कोष में एकत्रित करें । फूल फूल से न तो मधु मक्खी लाती है । हमारा काम है कि जहां फूल हो वहां से मधु लेना चाहिये । लेकिन यह फूल नहीं है । यह तो एक रोग है, एक मवादरूपी धन जो बड़े बड़े धनियों के पास पड़ा हुआ है उस को मवाद की तरह रोग समझ कर निकालना चाहिये । यही उद्देश्य इस बिल का है । इसलिये मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं ।

सभापति महोदय, इस सम्बन्ध में एक बात यह कही गई है कि इस बिल का जो शासन होगा वह ठीक से नहीं होगा । इनकम टैक्स विभाग के चलाने का जो हमारा तजुर्बा है वह भी इस बात को महसूस कराता है । जिस प्रकार समाज के लिये हम आज यह बोल रहे हैं कि हर जगह से हमारा फर्ज़ है कि रुपया लायें, उसी तरह से इस राष्ट्र का जो प्रशासिक अंग है उस के लिये आवश्यक है

ह अंग शुद्ध और पवित्र हो। जिस प्रकार यह ही है कि जनता में जो धनी लोग रहते वह सभी के सभी ऐसे नहीं हैं कि अपने र्तव्य का ठीक से पालन करें, उसी तरह से ह भी मानना पड़ेगा कि मंत्री से ले कर ीचे चौकीदार तक जो सरकारी शासन करते वे भी जो आदर्श उन को रखना चाहिये ह आदर्श नहीं रखते हैं। यह चाहे किसी व्यक्ति वशेष की कमी हो या समाज की कमी हो, केकिन जब हम कोई कानून बनाते हैं तो उस का शासन जनता के हित में ठीक तौर पर ा हो कर बहुत से मामलों में व्यक्तिगत पक्षपात व्यक्तिगत कमजोरी और व्यक्तिगत दूसरी दूसरी तरह की बातों के आने से वह काम उचित रूप से नहीं होता है। इनकम टैक्स का अनुभव हम को बताता है कि इनकम असैस (assess) करने वाले जो अफसर हैं उन को जैसा सिद्धान्तवादी होना चाहिये, व्यवहार में और अपने काम में, वे वैसे सिद्धान्त-वादी नहीं होते हैं। वे प्रलोभन में आ जाते हैं। और जब कहा जाता है कि प्रलोभन में आकर कोई काम करते हैं तो उस की सजा के लिये तरह तरह के कानून यहां बनाये जाते हैं। हमारे कांस्टीट्यूशन में भी कहा है कि जब तक रीजनेबल अपार्चुनिटी (reasonable opportunity) नहीं दी जायेगी, यहां तक कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक में उन को अपनी निर्दोषिता साबित करने का मौका दिया गया है, तो बहुत से ऐसे पबलिक के काम करने वाले जो सरकारी कर्मचारी हैं, मैं किसी सरकारी कर्मचारी पर किसी तरह का आरोप नहीं लगाता, लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि हमारा शासन जो चलता है, उस में जब हम एक आदर्श को मानते हैं कि जहां धन इकट्ठा हैं वहां से वह आजाये, तो सचाई के साथ उस का उपयोग करें, इस कानून को ठीक से व्यवहार में लावें, यह भी सरकार का फर्ज हो जाता है। मैं अपने मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि जहां आज आप यह आपरेशन समाज पर करने जा रहे हैं तो वहां यह भी उचित है कि आप को यह महसूस होना चाहिये कि जितने कानून यहां बनते हैं उन को ठीक ढंग से चलाने के लिये जिस तरह के कर्मचारियों की जरूरत है वैसे ही कर्मचारी रखे जायें। अभी जो कर्मचारी हैं उन के अन्दर यह भावना नहीं है। कुछ कर्मचारी अवश्य हैं जो अपने कर्तव्य का पालन राष्ट्र के हित में करते हैं देश भक्ति को सामने रख कर करते हैं। लेकिन बहुत से कर्मचारी, और कर्मचारी में मैं सिर्फ सरकारी नौकरों को नहीं रखता हूं, मैं मंत्री से ले कर चौकीदार तक जितने हैं उन को रखता हूं, तो जब वे शासन की गद्दी पर बैठते हैं तो उन को उस समय केवल न्याय करना चाहिये, बगैर किसी तरह का पक्षपात किये हुए, निर्मम हो कर एक सा बर्ताव उन को करना चाहिये। यह ऊपर से लेकर नीचे तक और सदस्य भी उस में शामिल हैं, सब में यह भाव होना चाहिये। आज दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इस कल्याणकारी राज्य के चलाने के लिये जैसे शासक, जैसे व्यक्ति चाहियें, मंत्री चाहियें, मेम्बर चाहियें और चौकीदार चाहियें, वैसे नहीं मिलते। इसलिये बहुत से भाइयों को यह कहने का मौका मिल जाता है कि क़ानून तो सरकार ऐसे बड़े बड़े बनाती है, लेकिन उन कानूनों के बरतने में गरीबों का ख्याल नहीं रखा जाता।

सभापति महोदय, मैं अपना समय खत्म होने से पहले एक बात यह अवश्य कहूंगा कि आज इस कल्याणकारी राज्य के अन्दर एक निर्धन व्यक्ति का जैसा स्वागत किसी सरकारी आफिस में होना चाहिये वह उस सरकारी आफिस में नहीं होता है। मोटर पर बैठने वाला सरकारी आफिस में जाय तो उस को कुर्सियां मिल जाती हैं, लेकिन एक गरीब बेचारा जिस के पास मोटर नहीं है

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

वह काम से जाता है तो उस के स्वागत करने की बात तो क्या उस के काम करने की भी कई दिनों तक नौबत नहीं आती। इसलिये हम अपने माननीय उपमंत्री से कहेंगे कि जहां आज इस कानून के जरिये से आप हिन्दुस्तान के संचित धन का बहुत बड़ा नहीं तो काफी हिस्सा लेने जा रहे हैं वहां आप को इस बात का पूरा ख्याल रखना होगा कि जो मैशीनरी इस कानून को लागू करने और टैक्स इकट्ठा करने के लिये आप बनावें उस के चुनाव में बहुत बड़ी सावधानी बरतनी चाहिये। केवल पबलिक सरविस कमीशन से नियुक्त होने से ही ईमानदारी का परिचय नहीं होता। यूनिवर्सिटियों से लम्बी चौड़ी डिग्रियां हासिल कर के सरकारी नौकरी में प्रवेश पा जाना ही कोई ईमानदारी का लक्षण नहीं होता है। इस तरह के क़ानून को लागू करने के लिये मैं समझता हूं कि ऐसे लोगों की एक विशिष्ट कमेटी बनानी चाहिये कि जो शिक्षा का ख्याल रखे और दूसरी ओर नये ठाट बाट का भी ख्याल रखे, लेकिन यह ख्याल पहले रखे कि वह एक ईमानदार व्यक्ति होना चाहिये। और बातों में नम्बर दो भी हो तो कोई बात नहीं, लेकिन ईमानदारी में नम्बर एक ही होना चाहिये। हमारे देश में ईमानदारी की जो कीमत है वह कुछ आज कम है और दूसरे गुणों की जो क़ीमत है वह कुछ ज्यादा है। इस को कम करना होगा और ईमानदारी की कीमत को बढ़ाना होगा।

Mr. Chairman: It is now 12-45 and I have to take up the half an hour discussion. Notices have been given by certain Members. One of them is Mr. Jasani.

DISCUSSION *RE* BIDI INDUSTRY

श्री जसानी (भंडारा): सभापति महोदय, मैं आज इस सदन के सदस्यों के सामने इस देश के एक बहुत बड़े गृह उद्योग बीड़ी व्यवसाय के सम्बन्ध में कुछ बातें रखना चाहता हूं। शायद हमारे में से कुछ भाइयों को यह ख्याल होगा कि इस बीड़ी के गृह उद्योग का आज के दिन हमारी आर्थिक व्यवस्था के अन्दर कितना बड़ा और महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। यह बीड़ी व्यवसाय हमारे देश के एक कोने से दूसरे कोने तक उत्तर से ले कर दक्षिण तक और पूरब से ले कर पश्चिम तक हमारे देश के हर एक गांव में फैला हुआ है और इस बीड़ी उद्योग में हमारे ६ लाख भाई काम कर रहे हैं और आज इस गृह उद्योग के जरिये जो कुछ भी उत्पादन होता है, शायद हमारे में से कुछ भाइयों को यह ख्याल होगा कि हम सौ करोड़ रुपये की बीड़ी साल भर में बनाते हैं, परन्तु आज जिन पूंजीपतियों के हाथ में यह गृह उद्योग है, वह अब इस गृह उद्योग का यन्त्रीकरण करना चाहते हैं और बीड़ी बनाने के यन्त्र हमारे इस देश में तैयार हुए हैं, एक तो बम्बई में तैयार हुआ है और दूसरा बनारस में तैयार हुआ है। मैं आप को बतलाऊं कि इस बीड़ी उद्योग के जरिये सरकार को आज करीब ११ करोड़ रुपये की एक्साइज ड्यूटी (Excise Duty) मिलती है, अब हमें यह देखना है कि इस यन्त्रीकरण का हमारे इस देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था के ऊपर क्या असर होता है? आप यह जानते हैं कि अभी फाइव ईयर प्लान के अन्दर जो हम नये उद्योग खोलने जा रहे हैं और जिन उद्योगों में हमारा ७०० करोड़ रुपया लगने के बाद पांच साल के अन्त में हम केवल चार लाख आदमियों को काम दे सकेंगे, परन्तु अगर इस बीड़ी व्यवसाय का यन्त्रीकरण हुआ, और वह यन्त्र जो बारह आदमी का काम करता है वह इस बीड़ी व्यवसाय में दाखिल हुआ, तो करीब करीब पांच लाख आदमी उस में से बाहर निकल जायेंगे। आज हमारे देश में बेकारी का सवाल बड़ा एक्यूट (acute) होता

जा रहा है और हम देखते हैं कि हमारी बड़ी बड़ी जो इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, उन में कुछ लोगों को काम मिलता है और कुछ को नहीं मिल रहा है। अगर हम तमाम इंडस्ट्रीज के सम्बन्ध में हिसाब लगायें, तो हम पायेंगे कि हमारे देश की बड़ी बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज में ५७ लाख आदमी काम करते हैं। सब से बड़ी इंडस्ट्री आज हमारी टैक्सटाईल (Textiles) की है जिस में करीब दस लाख आदमी काम करते हैं, उस के बाद रेलवे का नम्बर आता है जिस में करीब आठ लाख आदमी काम करते हैं, और इस गृह उद्योग में ६ लाख आदमी काम करते हैं, और मैं बतलाऊं कि प्रश्न केवल ६ लाख आदमियों का ही नहीं है, क्योंकि अगर हम इन ६ लाख काम करने वालों के साथ में जो उन के डिपैंडेंट्स (dependents) हैं उन की भी अगर हम गिनती करें, तो आज बारह लाख से अधिक आदमियों की रोटी का सवाल हमारे सामने है और मेरा निवेदन है कि अगर इस यन्त्रीकरण के द्वारा बारह लाख आदमियों की रोटी का प्रश्न उपस्थित होता है, तो शासन का यह काम हो जाता है कि उस पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक सोचें कि उसके बारे में वह क्या करे। मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे यहां जो इंडस्ट्रियल ऐक्ट है उस में इस तरह का एक क्लाज (clause) है जिस के ज़रिये जो नयी इंडस्ट्रीज़ हैं, उस में मशीन के ऊपर हम रोक डाल सकते हैं। इस के अतिरिक्त मैं आप को याद दिलाऊं कि हमारे भारतीय संविधान की जो तेतालीसवीं धारा है उस में हम लोगों ने यह तय किया है कि हम काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज की रक्षा करेंगे और काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज को जहां तक सम्भव हो, बढ़ाने की कोशिश करेंगे तो सभापति महोदय आज यह जो प्रश्न हमारे सामने पेश है, हमें सोचना चाहिये कि हम इस के सम्बन्ध में क्या करें? कोई भाई अगर यह तर्क करें कि यन्त्रीकरण करने से बीड़ी का उत्पादन बढ़ सकता है तो उस को करने में क्या हर्ज है, तो मैं अपने उन भाई से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे सामने केवल उत्पादन बढ़ाने का सवाल ही नहीं है, हमारे सामने एक हियूमन फैक्टर (human factor) भी है कि हमारा औद्योगीकरण ऐसा होना चाहिये, हमारी इंडस्ट्रीज इस प्रकार की हों जिन में हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा आदमियों को रोटी दे सकें, इसलिये मैं यह कहता हूं कि इस के सम्बन्ध में शासन को तुरन्त विचार करना चाहिये।

Mr. Chairman: I would suggest to hon. Members that this is not a matter in which they should go on with long speeches, because the trouble will be that the purpose for which it is intended will not be achieved. Therefore they should be more factual and they may give some suggestions. The last ten minutes I propose to give to the hon. Minister because his reply will be an important part of the discussion.

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik—Central): I have to state the following facts during the short time that is at my disposal.

In our economic life, cottage industries play a very vital part. Our country is already over populated and the question of unemployment is everyday on the increase. We cannot afford to see a position in which 5 lakhs of people are likely to be thrown out of employment. It will be a very serious problem for the country from every point of view and just to avoid that, the only remedy is to stop mechanisation of this industry. The urgency and the importance of this matter cannot be exaggerated. In the initial stages, the prevention of the mechanisation of this industry can be easily achieved. Supposing now the machines have already come in the market and we have purchased and installed them in certain factories. Very rapidly the whole industry is likely to be mechanised. At that stage it will be very difficult for the Government, even if they have the means, to arrest the progress of further mechanisation. For the present, the industry is not concentrated in a few cities. It is spread throughout in hundreds of villages and a few towns. It serves the purpose of supplementary business to thousands of agriculturists. At the present juncture, when we are trying to find out fresh avenues for employment for thousands of people who are in need

[Shri G. H. Deshpande]

of employment, if we do not take urgent steps in this matter, then we will have to face a very serious situation. That is why we want to place this matter before the House, before the Government and before the hon. Members of this House and urge upon them the necessity of immediately trying to have some preventive method by which mechanisation in this industry can be arrested. It could be done by two ways. In a recent Act which we passed, there is a provision that if any concern wants to produce any fresh article, it will have to do so with the consent of the Government. Government can prevent local factories from purchasing these machines and if there will be an attempt by the capitalists to import machines from foreign countries, they can be prevented from doing so. If these two steps are taken, I am sure the progress of mechanisation can be arrested and the unemployment problem can be saved to a very large extent. I have done.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): My friends have put the matter before the House. This *bidi* industry may be mostly called a rural industry. The widows, disabled persons, and others, in the villages prepare *bidis* and send them to factories. Thus many people are engaged in this industry. If mechanisation which is proposed to be brought in is taken in hand, then, according to our calculation at least 5 lakhs of people will be out of employment. The Government, according to the Five Year Plan, is trying within five years to give employment to 4 lakhs of people only. It will have to be noted that 5 lakhs will be added and this will be a burden to the Government.

We are bound by our Constitution to look into this matter. Article 43 says that we must promote rural cottage industries but this cottage industry when hampered will be a burden to the Government. So I request not only the Commerce Ministry but also the Labour Ministry and the Planning Commission to look into this matter and take such steps as are necessary. I think there will be no obstacles when Government wants to take steps to save this cottage industry which we are bound, by the Constitution, to promote.

Shrimati Maydeo (Poona South): While smoking is not considered a virtue, to discuss publicly *bidi*-making industry would mean encouraging sin. (*An Hon. Member*: It is a necessity.) But, considering the implementation of the Five-Year Plan, we are thinking of how best to encourage cottage industries. *Bidi*-making can be considered as one of them. This occupation does not require any big capital or any implements to start with. With only Rs. 5 in hand, we can earn something every day. More than half the employees are women in the *bidi*-making industry. When we look at the facts and figures, we find that, along with looking after their children and home, women can earn nearly one rupee per day by making *bidi*. It is required to find out such an occupation that there will be easy consumption of the finished goods. You will find that this *bidi* is being consumed in such large numbers every day. Therefore, what I feel is that it will be criminal even to think of importing machinery for *bidi*-making which is the easiest possible manual occupation. The industry is such that it can easily be decentralised. So, I would request the Government to put a ban on importing machinery. I would also request those who have taken up this matter in their hands to pursue it earnestly until they get success.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Mahatma Gandhi himself gave a place to the *bidi* industry when he inculcated the spirit of Swadeshi. I am coming.........

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): If the hon. Member would only ask some questions, we may also get a chance.

Mr. Chairman: I think that would enable some more hon. Members to take part in this dicussion.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I am putting the question. I am coming from a State where this *bidi*-making is carried on as a cottage industry on a wide scale mainly attached to tobacco shops, big and small Any dislocation of that industry would lead to serious unemployment in my State, a State which is affected by the depression in the coir industry and also in the handloom industry. This is a perpetual problem—the question of mechanisation in this and similar fields—which Government will have to encounter. I would like to impress upon the Ministry to devote attention sufficiently early before the situation gets out of control. May I know whether Government has already introduced any sort of licensing system or intends to introduce any to those who want to mechanise this industry, and also whether the Government intends to prohibit altogether the adoption of the machine method? I would like clarification on these points.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Apart from the fact of mechanisation and prospective retrenchment, may I know whether it is a fact that in the southern parts, in the Madras State, Travancore-Cochin and Mysore States, the *bidi* industry is much affected due to shortage of wagons for the supply of raw materials like leaves, tobacco etc., and whether also it is a fact that recently there was a cut in the dearness allowance of the *bidi* workers, and thereby a cut in the total emoluments of these workers, which has created much difficulty to them? May I know whether the Government are aware of these facts, and whether they will do something towards redressing these grievances?

1 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: Shri Doraiswami.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am not Veeraswami. I am B. S. Murthy.

Mr. Chairman: I called Mr. Doraiswami. You can ask a question also.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether, after introducing this mechanisation, the Government will take all possible steps for providing alternative employment for these retrenched people?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): I want to know the position with regard to the refund of the increased licensing fees which were realized by the Government. Some time back, about 1951, the licensing fee was increased and there was a representation from the *bidi* dealers all over India, and Government decided to cancel that order. I want to know whether that amount—a huge amount was realized from the *bidi* dealers all over India—has been refunded.

Shri Raghavaiah (Ongole): In my parts.........

Mr. Chairman: A little louder.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): He has not yet reached his normal voice. He is only gearing up.

Shri Raghavaiah: In our parts this industry is run on a co-operative basis. So many workers subscribe the share capital of one rupee, or two rupees, or five rupees—something like that—and just start this industry on a co-operative basis. As a result of the levy of so many taxes like the Sales Tax, the co-operative industry has not been able to flourish and the workers are not getting enough profits which they should get when there is an industry run on a co-operative basis. So, in order to encourage this co-operative industry, may I request the hon. Minister to assure the workers in this industry that any kind of taxes or these duties and all this fee will not be levied on such a large amount that it amounts to discouraging the industry on a co-operative basis.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore) *rose.*—

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): He is an interested party.

श्री धुलेकर (जिला झांसी - दक्षिण) : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि बुंदेलखंड और रीवां स्टेट जो हैं जिस को आप विन्ध्य प्रदेश कहते हैं उस में लाखों दरख्त तेंदू के हैं और उन की पत्ती अहमदाबाद, बम्बई वगैरह भेजी जाती है । वहां पर इस समय लकड़ी और लकड़ी का कोयला मंहगा होने के कारण हजारों वृक्ष प्रति वर्ष काटे जाते हैं और इसलिये सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर भी होना चाहिये । यह जो हजारों दरख्त हर वर्ष काटे जाते हैं इस की वजह से कुछ दिनों में बीड़ी इंडस्ट्री खत्म हो जायेगी और हजारों आदमी जो वहां काम कर रहे हैं उन का नुक्सान होगा । इसलिये मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि बुंदेलखंड, मध्य भारत और विन्ध्य प्रदेश के जो खित्ते हैं उन में जरूर कोई कानून ऐसा लागू होना चाहिये जिस में कि बीड़ी के उद्योग में काम आने वाली जो पत्ती है उस के दरख्त के काटने की मनाही हो ।

श्री जांगड़े (बिलासपुर–रक्षित–अनुसूचित जातियां) : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि मशीनों के प्रयोग से अभी जो सम्पत्ति का विकेन्द्रीकरण मजदूरी के रूप में हजारों मजदूरों के पास जा कर होता है, वह कुछ व्यापारियों के पास में करोड़ों रुपये के इकट्ठे होने से रुक जायेगा । यानी इस प्रकार से धनवानों को और भी धनवान और गरीबों को और भी गरीब नहीं बनाया जा रहा है ?

दूसरी बात जो मैं जानना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि अभी लाखों मजदूरों को

[श्री जांगड़े)

काम नहीं मिलता क्योंकि वे शारीरिक कमज़ोरी के कारण कोई और काम नहीं कर सकते । वह केवल दो हाथों के सहारे बीड़ी बनाते हैं । अगर बीड़ी का धन्धा उन को नहीं मिलेगा तो क्या उन को कोई दूसरा धंधा मिल सकेगा ? नहीं मिलेगा । आखिर सरकार उन को कौन सा दूसरा धंधा दे सकेगी ?

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Member put a question.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The *bidi* industry is not one of the scheduled industries under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Will the hon. Minister kindly consider the feasibility of including it by a suitable amendment of the Act if mechanisation in this industry takes place on a large scale?

Mr. Chairman: I am calling upon the Hon. Minister to reply.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): I should begin by saying that Government appreciate that this question has been raised on the floor of the House. This question assumes importance principally not from the production point of view, but from the employment point of view. It has been common experience that whereever in the case of existing industries mechanisation has come in, it has normally resulted in displacing small scale workers who have received employment in that particular industry—just as it happened partially in the case of handlooms.

Earlier we might have had a look at this question from the point of view of efficiency of production and other factors. But we do recognise that in the case of an industry like the *bidi* industry where a large number of workers find their employment and subsistence, it becomes necessary seriously to consider as to how far we should permit mechanisation. As my friend, Mr. Chaudhuri, said, it. Technically today, as the law stands, we have no power to intervene and say that those machines shall not come into existence. However I might for the information of the House say that this problem is before the Central Government and we have indicated our disapproval of mechanisation trespassing into this field. The question has principally arisen in two States, Bombay and Uttar Pradesh. Our information is that in Bombay there has been an attempt at evolving a machine which will result in greater production with less labour. Our information also is that this machine is not yet on the market, that the machine that was said to be evolved was something of a complicated machine and that the Bombay Government was also cognisant of this matter. We further understand that the original inventor, or the man who devised it, had sold his own rights to another concern. But we have to envisage the possibility of this machine coming into existence, because there is nothing wonderful about it. Government do consider that from the employment point of view, this is a question that should be considered seriously and we are grateful to the hon. Members who have raised this debate for having raised a note of warning betimes. I am happy to state on behalf of Government that this question of mechanisation in the *bidi* industry will receive our attention. Because fundamentally we are opposed to mechanisation of any particular sector of industry resulting in unemployment, especially at a time in the economic history of our country when it is as important to maintain unimpeded the course of employment as to develop increased production. I am quite sure that hon. Members of the House will give us time to consider this matter; it is not a matter of urgency in the sense that the machines are not yet in the market. It is very good that questions are raised when there is yet time to correct the situation. And I should think there is no question of information in this matter. There is no particular aspect on which I can enlighten the House, further than what it has already been enlightened. The facts are there. A number of workers are there. The fact also that poor people are engaged in this industry is there. It is also equally patent that it is important to give consideration to the possible effects of mechanisation.

I hope hon. Members will be content with this assurance at this stage.

Shri Nambiar: Sir, we had raised some other points also.

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. The principal point to which our attention was drawn was the mechanisation of this industry vis-a-vis employment.

We had not sufficient notice of the other points and I have denied myself the luxury of dealing with those points because I am not fully prepared with them. If we had a little early notice of this and if we had more time—and I do not think hon. Members would like to sit for some time more—I would have been very happy to deal with those points and I am quite sure we would have given the information to the hon. Members in good time. However, I wish them better luck next time.

Shri Nambiar: Is he sure that we will not sit for some time more?

Mr. Chairman: The House will now stand adjourned till 8-15 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Friday, the 15th May, 1953.